Long live the (prom) king!
Washington state lesbian wins student vote, withstands anti-gay hate attacks.
page 13

Boys, girls, and others
Nat'l Conference on Gender emphasizes inclusion.
page 14



Physique press
They're built, they're nude, and they're 100 years old!
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 21 • 24 May 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Boy Scouts' Raiders ad to be pulled at gay groups' urging

by David Fraser

Treading a sort of rope bridge between public perception and policy, the Boy Scouts of America's San Francisco Bay Area Council has told the *Oakland Tribune* to pull a golf tournament ad that East Bay gay advocacy groups objected to as inaccurate and offensive.



Pete King

A letter from the council to Pete King, president of East Bay Pride, said the council was pulling the ad until it could be amended, in the light of public perception and discussions with East Bay Pride officials on Monday, May 21.

The ad, which has run several times in the *Tribune*, is titled, "Who Benefits from the Oakland Raiders BSA Invitational Golf Tournament?" The ad says in part, "The Raiders BSA Golf Tournament is a great way to make sure no child misses the opportunities, motivation, and fun that scouting offers."

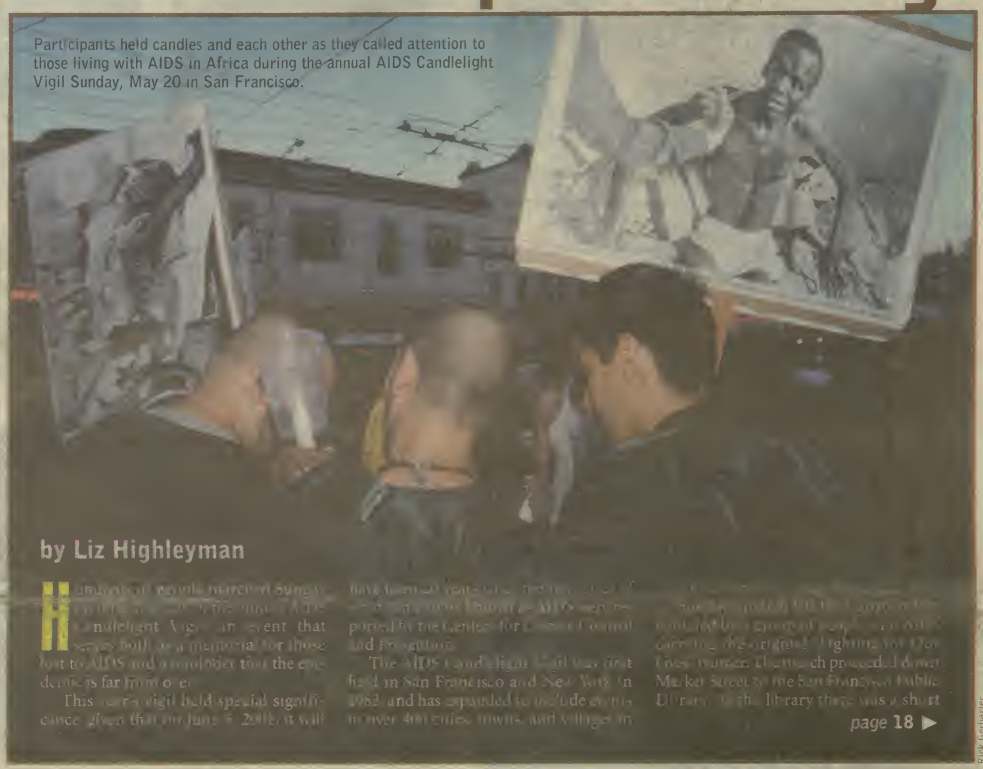
The Boy Scouts of America's national policy is to exclude gay youth from joining the organization, along with girls and professed atheists. The group also prohibits gays from serving as troop leaders.

Gesture for gesture

King told the *Bay Area Reporter* after the meeting that he was "amazed" and "very grateful" for the decision. As a gesture of good faith for the council's decision, he said, he was dropping a tournament protest under

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Hundreds take part in AIDS vigil



Participants held candles and each other as they called attention to those living with AIDS in Africa during the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil Sunday, May 20 in San Francisco.

Rick Gerharter

by Liz Highleyman

Hundreds of people marched through the streets of the Castro district on Sunday, May 20 for the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil, an event that serves both as a memorial for those lost to AIDS and a reminder that the epidemic is far from over.

This year's vigil held special significance given that on June 5, 2001, it will have been twenty years since the first cases of AIDS were reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The AIDS Candlelight Vigil was first held in San Francisco and New York in 1983 and has expanded to include events in over 400 cities, towns, and villages in

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Project Open Hand opens East Bay kitchen center at California Hotel

by David Fraser

In a kitchen sparkling with aluminum and enthusiasm, Project Open Hand on Friday, May 18 inaugurated its new East Bay operation in Oakland, preparing to cook and deliver food to Alameda County residents living with HIV/AIDS who might otherwise go without hot meals.

Chefs stirred up chili and breaded chicken as the organization geared up its "Something's Cooking in Oakland" program for about 200 clients, including many who are homebound and critically ill and those in the senior lunch program.

The new kitchen will be complemented by a grocery center expected to open in late 2001 or early 2002.

Opening the new kitchen means the organization's staff and volunteers won't have to fight Bay Bridge traffic to deliver hot and frozen meals to Alameda County residents.

Now, everything for East Bay clients is being cooked on site in a bi-level operation inside the old California Hotel on San Pablo Avenue.

Grand hotel

In its heyday in the 1950s and 1960s, the California Hotel was ground zero for African American music and social life in the East Bay, graced by the likes of B.B. King, Lou Rawls, and Ray Charles.



Jane Philomen Cleland

Loren Brown, of Providian, left, Mario Diaz, of Wells Fargo, second from left, and Tom Harris, Project Open Hand board chair, right, joined with other corporate donors in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of Project Open Hand's new Oakland kitchen facility.

At the center, looking down from the upstairs space, visitors could see a staff of six chefs hard at work in a bright kitchen. After a ribbon cutting ceremony, everyone went back to work.

"We're looking forward to having a

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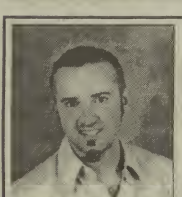
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Hello Mr. and Miss Mexico


Rick Gerharter

Pablo Martinez, left, from Baja California Norte, and Gloria Diaz, from Michoacan, were crowned as Mr. and Miss Mexico during the annual pageant at San Francisco's Esta Noche bar Friday, May 18. Five contestants competed in talent, beach wear, and evening wear amidst various performance numbers, mariachis, and even a stripper. The event was a benefit for AIDS agencies.

Horizons survey offers surprises, contradictions

by David Fraser

The Horizons Foundation survey of parental attitudes toward their children and gay and lesbian issues has revealed a number of views, some surprising and some not.

The survey is titled "Talking to Children About Homosexuality: A National Survey of 1,000 Parents."

Celinda Lake, president of Lake Snell Perry and Associates, presented her firm's findings for the foundation at the San Francisco Public Library on Monday, May 7.

Lake Snell Perry conducted the survey by telephone using a professional interviewer, between February 20 and 26. The survey reached a total of 1,000 parents nationwide of children between ages 5 and 18.

The survey included 890 randomly distributed interviews, and over samples of 50 African American and 60 Hispanic parents.

Lake said the over samples were weighted into the base sample to reflect racial distribution of the overall national population of parents.

Earlier this month, the *Bay Area Reporter* described some of the survey's findings, focusing on Hispanic parents' relatively tolerant attitudes toward homosexuality.

Here's a broader sampling of the overall findings released by the Horizons Foundation.

Within focus groups, the survey said, parents "expressed an ethic of tolerance even when they felt uncomfortable with homosexuality."


Jaime Philonen Cleland

Celinda Lake

Maryland focus group

In one group, conducted in Owings Mills, Maryland, white parents offered a range of views:

"The fact that I believe homosexuality is wrong does not make me homophobic. I'm not afraid of them or their behaviors. I don't think they're going to hurt me. And I don't like being labeled that way and I think it's inaccurate," from a white father.

"Because of the fact that like Columbine, you had all of those cliques that excluded those particular people that did the damage, and kids have to understand, even at an early age, that … just because somebody is different, doesn't mean that you should pick on them, or to make them feel like there is something wrong with them, because they are not like you," from a white mother.

"That's why I expose them to different religions as well, because I figure … the only way they are really truly going to understand things is if they are more tolerant, and therefore they don't hate people," from a white mother.

"I have no problem with teaching my child about toleration for other people and what they believe, but it's different than what I want her to believe or what I want her to be exposed to," from a white father.

Moral issue?

Overall, the survey noted that, "Despite the normative view that increased tolerance and acceptance are good, nearly half of all American parents believe that homosexual relationships are morally wrong.

"In contrast, only a quarter believe homosexual relationships are not a moral issue."

Nearly a quarter of parents who believe that increased tolerance and acceptance are both good also believe that homosexual relationships are immoral, the survey noted.

"We were pleasantly surprised," said Horizon Foundation's Executive Director Peter Teague, "that nearly two-thirds of parents understood the need to talk with their children about homosexuality and said they would

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CAPE luncheon features Vermont governor

by Katie Szymanski

Governor Howard Dean of Vermont will be the keynote speaker at the California Alliance for Pride and Equality's Fair Workplace Project luncheon on Friday, June 29, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco.

Dean, who made history last spring as the first governor in the country to sign a civil unions bill granting gay and lesbian couples the same rights as married heterosexual couples, will address the event that will also honor local groups and individuals for their work in ensuring basic rights for all Californians. Honorees include Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), the *Bay Area Reporter*'s own Bob Ross, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 2 and the AT&T Corporation

The CAPE luncheon includes registration and a reception at 11:30 a.m., and the lunch and program from noon to 1:30 p.m. Individual tickets are $100, and a table of 10 is $1,000. Corporate, organizational, and individual sponsorships are available at a variety of contribution levels. The event is underwritten by the Charles Schwab Foundation so that every dollar raised on this day will go toward CAPE's continuing efforts to lobby for legislation and ensure equality for members of the LGBT community.

For more information, or to RSVP, call (562)439-7304. RSVPs must be received by June 19. ▼

Castro beating victim in serious condition

by Katie Szymanski

An unidentified man was listed in serious condition with head injuries at San Francisco General Hospital after he was jumped and attacked by a group of young people in the vicinity of 18th and Collingwood on the evening of Tuesday, May 22. The suspects are believed to be local kids who participate in various queer youth programs in the Castro neighborhood, authorities said.

The first 911 call came from Collingwood Street at 8:04 p.m., according to Inspector Sherman Ackerson of the public affairs division of the San Francisco Police Department. Suspects described as youth between the ages of 17 and 20 were standing over the victim, according to the call, kicking and punching him. A second 911 call said the suspects – wearing items like an orange jacket and a light blue sweat suit – had run from the scene. Responding officers checked the area and reportedly arrested one young girl. At press time, three other suspects remained at large. Several witnesses have come forward to help with the investigation.

The incident reportedly occurred when the victim was moving his car from a space near Walgreens and across the street from Cala Foods. He may have temporarily blocked the path of the passing kids, who allegedly pounded on the hood of his car. The victim exited his car to confront the group and was jumped, according to a witness on the scene who requested anonymity.

"They don't have any adult role models," said the source of the neighborhood's youth. "They have no sense of what is right and wrong."

There was so much blood at the scene, according to the police log, that the fire department was called to wash down the pavement. ▼

PlanetOut founder announces Castro Theatre project

by Katie Szymanski

For all the criticisms of the dot-com boom, it may be comforting to know that at least one Internet pioneer has given back to the community. Tom Rielly, founder of the popular Web-based gay community site PlanetOut, announced this week the formation of the Castro Foundation, part of the nonprofit the Film Arts Foundation, to help with the revitalization and restoration of the historic Castro Theatre.

The beloved 1922 theater at 427 Castro Street has been slowly moving toward disrepair for years now, with a leaking roof, peeling ceiling, and an outdated power supply, plus an inaccessible concession stand and uncomfortable bathrooms topping the list of complaints. The Nasser family, the longtime owners of the theater, will take over operation from Blumenfeld Enterprises on August 1, and have already expressed plans to renovate the facility.



Rick Gerharter

The Castro Foundation has been set up to help get public support for renovating the landmark Castro Theatre.

But there is only so much financial investment that can be reasonably expected from the building's owners, according to Rielly, which is where the Castro Foundation comes in. Although nonprofit donations cannot go directly to a private building, funds donated can go to things like a feasibility study; gathering community input; locating sources of funding that are specific to rebuilding; producing a documentary film and book about the Castro Theatre's place in history; and other incentives to convince the Nassers to make a commitment to

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McGoldrick offers alternative to Daly's tenant housing proposal

by David Fraser

Jumping into the home ownership fray, San Francisco Supervisor Jake McGoldrick has offered a compromise ordinance that aims to placate both sides on the contentious issue of tenancies-in-common.

McGoldrick introduced on May 14 his home ownership for tenants ordinance, saying it was designed to take account of tenant desires to gain ownership over their units while also placing some controls over unregulated TIC conversions.

McGoldrick's proposal would double the number of conversions in an ordinance proposed by Supervisor Chris Daly. Daly's plan, which would limit TIC conversions to 200 a year, the same as condominium conversions, has been slow to surface.

Both Daly's and McGoldrick's proposals are on today's (Thursday, May 24) public hearing agenda of the Housing, Transportation, and Land Use Committee of the Board of Supervisors.

Castro residents and activists were divided about the plan.

Longtime tenant activist, Tommi Avicolli Mecca, reacted positively to the compromise proposal. "It's a good thing," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "because it will cut out the speculators and stop people from being evicted for TICs."

Mecca, director of counseling programs at the Housing Rights Committee, added: "I prefer Daly's ordinance because it's a little stronger. McGoldrick's raises the cap on conversions to 400, which is a little problematic. I think if an extra 200 units go to tenants buying units, good, but they are still units being taken off the market. That's always scary, but I'm perfectly able to live with Jake's [McGoldrick's] proposal."

The Eureka Valley Promotion Association took an opposite view. Gustavo Serina, the group's corresponding secretary, told the *B.A.R.*: "We're composed of renters and homeowners, and the renters as well feel very strongly that this is bad news.

"The EVPA just voted unanimously to opposed any restrictions on TICs, and we believe that if the supervisors have such a proposal they should put it on the ballot, because this approach undermines confidence in the democratic process."

Serina added, "Proposition N was overwhelmingly defeated in November; to have a small group of people legislate to contravene an electoral mandate is extremely undemocratic."

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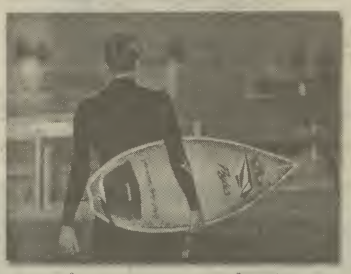


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Cynthia Laird

BALIF board members at their Santa Cruz retreat. In back from left, Caren Jenkins, Vicky Kolakowski, Scott Wiener, Shawn Parrish, and Marvin Anderson. In front from left, Kim Carver, Lesley Weaver, Mark DeCastro, Linda Scaparotti, and Fernando Quinones.

BALIF elects new board members

by Cynthia Laird

Members of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom have elected a diverse board for 2001-02, and are gearing up for several activities, including next month's Pride festivities.

At BALIF's annual meeting last month, ballots were counted and Deb Hedger, Vicky Kolakowski, Fernando Quinones, Rob Depew, and Rebecca Prozan were elected new board members. They join re-elected board members Molly McKay, Kim Carver, Joe Swimmer, and Scott Wiener.

The newly elected board members joined fellow members Melinda Burns, Mark DeCastro, Caren Jenkins, Shawn Parrish, Linda Scaparotti, and Lesley Weaver, all of whom will be up for election next year. Last month, the board held a retreat in Santa Cruz, and Scaparotti and Wiener were elected co-chairs.

Scaparotti, entering her second year as BALIF co-chair, specializes in sexual harassment litigation and alternative family law.

Wiener, a complex commercial litigator at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP, previously served as BALIF treasurer and also serves on the board of the Community Center Project and on the board of governors of the Human Rights Campaign. Wiener replaces departing board member Ian Sweedler, whose extraordinary contribution to BALIF will be sorely missed, board members said.

Weaver, a litigator specializing in securities and consumer fraud complex litigation at Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach LLP, is former co-chair of the outreach committee and will serve as treasurer while continuing her outreach work, coordinating BALIF's efforts with other organizations working to promote the civil rights of all citizens.

Kolakowski, a longtime BALIF member who works as chief patent counsel for a high tech company, was elected secretary and will co-chair the outreach committee.

In addition to electing officers at its recent retreat, board members defined new initiatives for the coming year. Quinones, an immigration attorney in private practice in San Francisco, has stepped forward to organize BALIF's contingent in the upcoming Pride Parade and will co-chair the program committee. Quinones follows former board member Amie Miller in this position.

Carver, former managing editor of the *San Francisco Daily Journal* and *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, will continue her work as editor of BALIF's newsletter and chair of member communications. Her efforts this year will focus on providing more information about BALIF to those beyond the legal community in San Francisco.

BALIF's efforts to provide references for folks seeking LGBT attorneys, or seeking lawyers specializing in issues that predominantly impact the LGBT community, continue under the redoubled efforts of Jenkins. She is a civil litigator at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, and will oversee the implementation of a Web-based listing of BALIF members who choose to participate in this program. Board members noted that this approach will provide a service that is greatly needed in the LGBT community.

Anderson, senior counsel with Pacific Telesis Group and also a longtime BALIF member, will lead the judiciary committee, following the work of former board members Laurie Simonson and Sweedler. Hedger will continue her active representation of BALIF at the State Bar and co-chair the outreach committee. Her efforts will be doubled by Burns, an attorney in private practice in Oakland.

McKay, an associate at Gordon & Rees and chair of the successful BALIF dinner earlier this year, will return in that capacity and has already begun planning for next year's dinner.

Swimmer will again coordinate the social committee.

Parrish, a litigation partner at Morgenstein & Jubelirer and former co-chair of the judiciary committee, will assume responsibility for the amicus committee. Parrish follows in the footsteps of Ed Swanson, who may be known for his work on the amicus brief in the James Dale (Boy Scouts) case. As an opening act, Parrish will be looking into litigation involving "censorware," or software intended to block access to LGBT Web sites, including BALIF's.

DeCastro will return as membership co-chair, continuing his efforts at promoting online renewal on BALIF's Web site. DeCastro is a deputy city attorney with the San Jose City Attorney's office and the first openly gay person to be appointed to a four-year term with the State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners.

Law student co-chair Prozan, a first-year law student at Golden Gate University who formerly served as Mayor Willie Brown's LGBT liaison, will join efforts with law student co-chair Depew, a second-year student at Hastings Law, to coordinate social, political, and legal events for law student BALIF members. ▼

For more information on BALIF, call (415) 956-5764. Full disclosure: Vicky Kolakowski is the partner of *B.A.R.* news editor Cynthia Laird.



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Carl's Jr. faces TG discrimination suit

by Katie Szymanski

When is the law not the law? When transphobia rears its ugly head at a food establishment not comfortable with all of its customers.

A transgender woman is suing a San Francisco Carl's Jr. in San Francisco Superior Court for refusing to allow her to use the women's restroom in a series of incidents that allegedly occurred last summer. According to the lawsuit, plaintiff Michelle Jinich, who is legally female, attempted to enter the ladies room as a customer at the restaurant at 10 United Nations Plaza on June 2, 2000. She was reportedly told by an employee that she had to use the men's room, and when she refused, the employee allegedly threatened and harassed her in front of other customers, calling her a "faggot" and other derogatory names. Upon reporting the incident a few days later, the same employee allegedly stated, "You are a man in a dress, so you can use the men's room." When Jinich produced the identification showing she was legally female, the same employee reportedly asked, "How is that possible? He is a faggot. An impostor."

What is most telling about the lawsuit is that attorneys for Carl's Jr. do not deny these incidents, but instead respond with their own definition – the law aside – of what makes a real woman.

"Plaintiff alleges to have obtained some form of identification to prove a female gender identity and alleges status as a 'transgender individual,'" states a document filed by lawyers for Gordon & Rees, LLP. "However, plaintiff was born a biological male and there is no allegation that plaintiff has undergone a sex change operation. It is reasonable inference then that the plaintiff remains a biological male and as such has male genitalia and there is no factual allegation to the contrary."

To Waukeen McCoy, Jinich's attorney, this statement just proves ignorance of the law.

"Give me a break," McCoy told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's amazing that they took that position. It just shows that they are not really thinking."

Ronald Berestka, an attorney with Gordon & Rees, said he could not comment on that position until after a hearing scheduled for July.

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages for transgender identity discrimination, a protected class in San Francisco and the state of California; and intentional infliction of emotional distress. ▼

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Law school graduation a first for four New College students

by Cynthia Laird

While it is an accomplishment in and of itself to graduate from law school, the May 19 commencement exercises for four students at New College of California School of Law were meaningful on another level – the students were in the college's HIV/AIDS Reentry and Empowerment Project and it marked the first time the project has seen its students receive law degrees.

James Gregory Campbell, John E. Fasesky, and Elliott Linwood were all on hand at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco last Saturday to receive their Juris Doctor degrees. A fourth student, Kevin J. Block, received his degree last De-

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Jane Philomen Cleland

Bill Hershon, left, with law school graduates John E. Fasesky, Elliott Linwood, and James Campbell.

Tie the knot at June's Pride

by Katie Szymanski

The Pride festival may be just about a month away, but there's still plenty of time to pop that age-old question: "Will you register with me?"

Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) invites the public to her second annual domestic partnership ceremony, to be held Saturday, June 23 at 1:30 p.m. on Pride's main stage. A champagne reception immediately follows the event.

The ceremony is particularly important this year because of Migden's pending legislation, AB25, which seeks to bestow many rights upon LGBT couples, such as inheritance and the right to sue for wrongful death. A large number of domestic partnership registrations may persuade Governor Gray Davis to sign the bill, according to Migden.

"The best way for the LGBT community to encourage him to recognize the importance of our relationships is to publicly acknowledge our relationships in registering as domestic partners," said Migden.

Even those who aren't the committing kind can make an exception as a political act to show visibility. And think of all the presents you'll get!

Participating couples will be asked to bring $10 and a picture ID, and should show up at 1 p.m. to register; notaries will be standing by. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will provide the music for the ceremony, and Canandaigua Wine Company will supply the champagne. So that organizers can better plan for the event, please RSVP to Migden's office at (415) 557-3000 by June 9. ▼

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'Reciprocal partnerships'

While the big news expected out of Vermont today concerns Senator James Jeffords, who is widely believed to announce he's leaving the GOP to become an independent – thus throwing the balance of power in the evenly divided Senate to the Democrats – there is a lesser known bit of legislation moving forward on the state level that threatens the landmark civil union bill that went into effect last year in that small northeastern state.

Republican lawmakers in the Vermont House are poised to pass an alternative to civil unions with the antiseptic-sounding name, "reciprocal partnerships." The bill's hidden purpose, according to Democratic state Representative Michael Vinton, is to "diminish and degrade the value of gay and lesbian families and the loving relationships they represent."

Reciprocal partnerships, like civil unions, would give same-sex couples the benefits of marriage. But such partnerships would also be made available to other couples who cannot legally marry – primarily blood relatives, such as an elderly woman and her adult child.

Supporters of the plan say if gay couples can get the benefits of marriage, they should, too. One man said he lives with his 79-year-old mother and they might want a reciprocal partnership to obtain certain health or inheritance benefits.

While same-sex couples currently go to the town clerk for a license, reciprocal partnerships would be administered by the Health Department and would not require a marriage-like ceremony. Getting out of a partnership would not require divorce proceedings, like civil unions.

The whole plan would certainly degrade civil unions, which is the closest thing there is to marriage for same-sex couples. It would equate gay and lesbian relationships to relationships with parents, siblings, or other relatives.

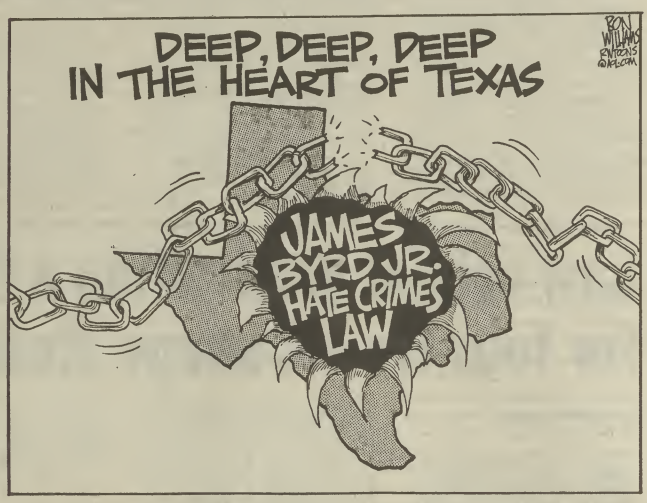


Editorial

It seems that Republicans in Vermont are still smarting from the passage of the civil union bill, and will do anything to keep the issue in the news to stir up anti-gay opposition, even if it means risking – in their minds – the imposition of marriage for gays and lesbians in the state, as decided by the state's Supreme Court. Come to think of it, that may not be such a bad move – same-sex couples could someday have the legal right to marry in Vermont, thanks to the Republicans. That's something we could live with.

As much as we would like to see equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples who want it, realistically it seems unlikely, even in Vermont. The reciprocal partnership plan seems doomed in the Democratic-controlled state Senate and Democratic Governor Howard Dean, who was re-elected last November despite strong opposition by a group that threatened to "take back Vermont," has said he would veto a repeal of the civil union law.

The latest skirmish in Vermont seems destined to fail, but not before further dividing a state and ratcheting up the level of anti-gay vitriol. Conservatives are wrong in their efforts to undermine civil unions with this insulting alternative for same-sex couples. ▼



A Dalai Lama update

by Steve Peskind

I am very happy that the Dalai Lama was teaching in the Bay Area last week, sharing his wisdom and liberating laugh with us once again. I find it sad, however, that the author of *The Art of Happiness* and *Imagine All the People* in 2001 apparently cannot imagine gay and lesbian Buddhists and other sexual men and women of good faith leading fulfilling, happy, and "ethical" sexual lives.

While saying that no real love between people can be condemned and that any discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation must end, the Dalai Lama nevertheless considers the natural sexual expressions of sexual minority orientation – manual, oral, and anal sex – "wrong," "unwholesome," "bad action," and "vices," not conducive to enlightenment and liberation, according to the Buddhist teaching. Most recently he articulated this view in the French magazine *Dimanche*. The last two years he has clearly stated his position in *Newsweek*, the *London Observer*, and the *Orange County Register*, to name three publications of which I am aware.

As a gay Buddhist activist who personally met with and questioned the Dalai Lama in 1997 about his reiteration of "traditional" Buddhist sexual misconduct ethics, I read sadly in *Newsweek*'s "Lama to the Globe" (August 16, 1999) that "Although he has affirmed the dignity and rights of gays and lesbians, he has condemned homosexual acts as contrary to Buddhist ethics." Unfortunately, in the past decade, he has repeatedly stated in publications, in public talks, and in international press interviews that non-vaginal sex including masturbation is "wrong and against Buddhist ethics" for any human being "of good faith," not just homosexual Buddhists.

The Dalai Lama is a pre-eminent spokesman for peace and nonviolence in this very violent world. What a shame that he cannot apparently put the joy and intimacy of human sexual expression, including non-harmful and creative gay and lesbian sex, ahead of his attachment to the ethical doctrines of often patriarchal, misogynist Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Clearly, safeguarding and advocating for the rights of one oppressed people, the Tibetans, while continuing to put forth a Buddhist party-line which spiritually oppresses sexual minorities and others, is neither skillful, kind, or compassionate in this writer's opinion.

In his most recent interview in *Dimanche*, in January 2001, the Dalai Lama says:

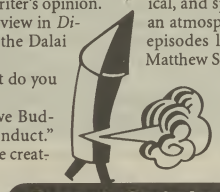
"Q: Your Holiness, what do you think of homosexuality?

DL: It's part of what we Buddhists call "bad sexual conduct." (Pause.) Sexual organs were created for reproduction between the male element and the female element – and everything that deviates from that is not acceptable from a Buddhist point of view. (He counts off on his fingers.) Between a man and [another] man, a woman and another woman, in the mouth, the anus, or even using a hand (the DL mimes masturbation).

Q: So you share this view with Christianity?

DL: We share much more than that: the same philosophy of love of one's neighbor, the aspiration to elevate a human being above his/her vices, compassion and forgiveness ..."

The Dalai Lama has said repeatedly that "The Buddha is the historical reference for Buddhists" – for daily practice and international discussion of Buddhist issues. Yet, when I personally asked him in 1997, "When and where did the Buddha give teachings prohibiting same-sex partners?", he replied, "I don't know." When Lourdes Arguelles, a respected lesbian professor of education, asked, "When and where did Buddha give teachings on inappropriate organs to use during sex?", he again honestly replied, "I don't know." And he still doesn't know because there is no record of the Buddha, "the ultimate historical reference," ever giving such teachings.



Guest Opinion

Not knowing when, where, or even if these teachings came directly from the Buddha, the Dalai Lama's persistent "wrong sex" teachings marginalize the behavior and full humanity of sexual minorities and others and contribute to the worldwide atmosphere of permission for psychological, physical, and spiritual violence against them – an atmosphere horrifically culminating in episodes like the murder of openly gay Matthew Shepard and others.

The Dalai Lama is a kind and deeply spiritual man who was raised as a monastic in a partly medieval theocracy. In this relatively imperfect world, he is not "perfect," "omniscient," or "always right" as the sometimes cultish behavior of some of his followers would have us believe. Information reaching him is heavily screened. The Dalai Lama was reportedly oblivious, for example, to the oppressive institutional discrimination of Tibetan Buddhism toward women and nuns until recently when Buddhist women finally spoke out. It is important for all of us mindfully practicing Buddhists and people of good faith to speak relative truth to relatively incorrect and misguided power, in this case the person and institution of the Dalai Lama on "sexual ethics for the next millennium."

Deep sadness is one response to the Dalai Lama's statements on "wrong sex." Compassion for ourselves and for this international teacher of compassion is another. He has said that he will pay attention to the international discussion of Buddhists, scientists, and others on this issue. I haven't given up on the Dalai Lama seeing human sexuality more clearly and hopefully stopping his harmful behavior as he continues to step beyond the boundaries of his sometimes medieval monastic male tradition and into 21st century Buddhism. ▼

A needed mouth at dental school

I have never felt compelled to pick up a pen and write a letter to the editor before, but after reading the cover story about Community Dental Care's foreboding closure *["Community Dental braces for the worst," May 10]*, I felt a need to express myself.

Community Dental has been the best service this PWA has ever utilized (and there have been many over the past 12 years). Efficient, pleasant, professional, and caring people were at the heart of this wonderful service providing dentistry for people like myself with no dental insurance. And perhaps as bad as losing this oasis of dental comfort is thinking about returning to the dental school trenches.

I had received no dental care for approximately two years before I began going to Community Dental. It was a conscious decision based on the fact that I had no insurance and based on my prior experience at the University of California, San Francisco's School of Dentistry. I wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Gene Gowdey's statement about many people with HIV and AIDS not being able to tolerate long and exhausting procedures at dental schools.

This was my experience. There were times I'd ask for breaks because I'd find myself dizzy, shaking, and clenching my sweating fists due to the stress involved. Also, it always took at least two hours, when Community Dental would have a similar procedure done in 20 minutes.

Throughout a procedure, the student dentist needs to put his name on a list so that a teacher will eventually come by and check his work. Once the teacher arrives at the chair he/she tells the student what was not done to satisfaction or still needs to be done. This can go on three or four times. Just when you hope you're finished, you're not.



Mailstrom

But this is the way of dentistry schools, it's just the way it is. These holdups are customary as is continually getting a different student dentist after the previous fellow/gal heads out into the world of insured teeth.

I dealt with this for years. My final "I just can't cope with this anymore" came when I was being worked on for a crown, an experience that took many, many months. At one point the temporary crown fell apart and I went around with my filed tooth exposed for days. Once the permanent crown was finally ready and I had been numbed, the student dentist told me that some other department had filed the crown down too much and we would have to start over from the beginning.

I liked the students working on me, they were great guys that didn't seem phased at all by my HIV status. However, one time my student dentist was doing some procedure and my gums were bleeding. I hadn't noticed that there was blood on his gloves until a teacher happened by and told him that he should put two gloves on each hand because of my bleeding. (That, by the way, was the only time in my experience that a teacher came by without being asked to, via the list.) She stayed until he did. Now I know she only had concern for the young student and so did I, but couldn't she have taken him a few feet away, out of earshot of the patient?

Community Dental Care was a sanctuary and respite in a world that can often be challenging to those that will never lead a normal life because of HIV and its many consequences. What a shame to see this end.

Kent Blackford
San Francisco

USCF on dental care for PWAs

Thank you for bringing to light in your May 10 article some of the issues surrounding the closing of Community Dental Care. Of special importance is the matter of providing dental care for HIV patients, particularly those for whom costs are subsidized by the federal government through the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

I regret that UCSF did not have an opportunity at that time to provide you with a more balanced picture of the current situation. The disruption to the patients who have received treatment at Community Dental is unfortunate and regrettable. However, I wish to clarify the role of the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry in this matter. Patient care is our first concern.

UCSF Dentistry responded to a request for proposal from the city of San Francisco inviting bids from organizations to provide dental services to HIV-infected San Franciscans. Particularly sought were providers who had clinics geographically distinct from the clinics at the University of the Pacific which for some years have provided the bulk of these services.

Our proposal was based on our 1) long-standing expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of oral health conditions specific to the HIV-infected population, 2) our honorable record of treating patients equitably, compassionately, and effectively, and 3) the fact that we have clinics located on the grounds of San Francisco General Hospital, at 100 Buchanan Street between the Fillmore and Castro districts, and on Parnassus Avenue adjacent to the UCSF Medical Center.

The UCSF School of Dentistry manages 14 dental clinics responsible for some 140,000 patient visits per year. We have a faculty whose members have won international recognition for the quality of their clinical skills and scientific discoveries in the area of HIV. And we have many satisfied patients who return year after year for their dental care.

We had applied to participate in this city-administered contract (which is federally funded through the Ryan White CARE Act) in the past but were not selected. This time, however, our application was successful. To the best knowledge of anyone on the UCSF campus, our present proposal was accepted solely on its merits.

We at UCSF Dentistry welcome this opportunity to provide the highest quality of dental services to our friends and neighbors in need. We look forward to working with the other providers participating in this effort, namely the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and the dental clinics of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

I would also like to point out that we are in this for the long haul, and not simply because of the availability of a city contract. I believe our record amply demonstrates this: The UCSF School of Dentistry performed vanguard research on detection of HIV infection during the early days of the epidemic and has continued to work in the area of oral transmission.

Our earliest AIDS efforts (1981-85) were driven by our patients' needs. Collaboration with our patients still marks all out work. We described many of the now widely recognized hallmark oral lesions, in fact discovering more than one. We continue to explore the unfolding story of this important aspect of the disease. Our recent contributions (see *The Lancet*, May 5) focus on the treatment of oral disease in HIV-infected people and how it changes with new HIV therapy such as HAART. We are finding less oral candidiasis and hairy leukoplakia but a big increase in oral warts. We train many dentists and physicians in oral AIDS issues and have helped bring UCSF to a leadership position in the war against the insidious virus.

Charles N. Bertolami, DDS, D.Med.Sc.
Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry

Conflicted loyalties?

Anyone reading your article, "Community Dental braces for the worst" would be left with the impression that the only reason decentralized funding for dental services was conceived and implemented was to provide private practice dentists – rather than dental students – with Ryan White funds to provide treatment to PWAs. This is not the case. Decentralized funding was implemented for a number of reasons, one of which was logistics – providing treatment within a community rather than having those seeking services travel too far outside their neighborhood to receive those services.

Furthermore, when the decentralized contract was originally announced, anybody – private-practice dentist or teaching institution – could have bid for the request for proposal providing they set up shop in a neighborhood conveniently located to accommodate its potential client base. Since UCSF's resident dental program is located on the hill right above the Safeway on Church and Market, it is perfectly situated to meet the needs of patients who reside in the Castro, Lower Haight, Hayes Valley, and the Mission.

Since dental schools were not automatically disqualified from bidding on the original decentralized contract, it stands to reason that the DPH is not violating the contract's mandate by awarding the contract to UCSF. Furthermore, as a sitting member of the CARE Council, Dr. Gene Gowdey is fully aware of this fact. Dr. Gowdey likes to allege a "cozy" relationship between UCSF and the DPH, but fails to address the particulars regarding his administration of the decentralized contract. Instead, he promises that there will be "hell to pay," as well as broadsides teaching institutions that render dental treatment to CARE-eligible patients under the centralized funding contract. Imagine the pride that was generated at UOP when students (and patients in UOP's CARE program) read the quotes attributed to Dr. Gowdey (the director of UOP's CARE program) in the article. Imagine the confidence generated in student-rendered treatment within the San Francisco HIV/AIDS community. To say that Dr. Gowdey is somewhat conflicted in his roles as director of Community Dental and at the same time director of UOP's CARE program is to state the obvious – and after reading the article, I don't have to tell the reader where his loyalties lie.

I have no doubt that the patients who have received treatment at Community Dental have received outstanding dental care. I can say this with some degree of certainty since two of the dentists at Community Dental are graduates of UOP Dental School. Since Community Dental provided such wonderful care to its patients, the real question is how UCSF was

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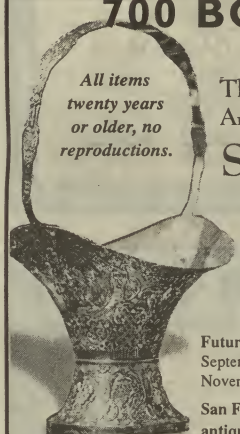
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Mailstrom

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able to out-bid Community Dental for the decentralized contract. It will take more than a few self-serving quotes to answer that question.

Daniel Vuic
Coordinator, CARE Program
University of the Pacific School of Dentistry

More on dental woes

The purpose of this letter is to bring additional comments and perspectives on the closing of the CARE Title I, decentralized dental programs operated by Community Dental Care (as reported in the May 10 issue of the *B.A.R.*).

As you know, the CARE Title I programs in San Francisco County, serving persons with HIV and AIDS, are set up to be a function of a community planning process. The grantor is the Department of Public Health AIDS Office, and the community board that oversees this process is the HIV Health Services Planning Council (aka., the CARE Council). The CARE Council sets the priorities and allocations and directs the AIDS Office to carry out these initiatives. The AIDS Office is supposed to accomplish the contracting process according to these priorities and allocations set forth by the CARE Council.

During prioritization planning as far back as 1997, the CARE Council heard public testimony and other feedback from consumers of CARE services that it would be desirable to have a dental care service that provided an alternative to dental care performed by students at the dental schools. It was recognized that the care given at the dental schools was a good and valuable service, but that some clients could not tolerate the long and tedious process that occurs at the schools of dentistry. In response to this request, the decentralized dental services category was born, with the definition of these services being that of community-based services as an augmentation to the good care given at the dental school. In 1998, Community Dental Care was awarded a contract as a result of a competitive bidding process, winning out over UCSF School of Dentistry for the very reason that UCSF was another dental institution and did not meet the requirements of the community based, decentralized initiative.

During the recent request for proposals, UCSF School of Dentistry (and the DPH themselves) won the bids for the decentralized dental services even though both by definition are centralized dental services, the same as the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry. The greatest insult of all in this wrongful bidding process is the intentional silencing of the consumers of care in the review panel. It is standard operating protocol to incorporate consumers of care on every review panel for RFPs. I am not suggesting that clients of Community Dental Care should participate, but I am saying that one or more clients of the system wide program need to be on the review panel in order to offer a voice of the HIV community.

It is also imperative that the review panel be thoroughly briefed about the CARE Council priorities, and this was not done. Ideally, a non-conflicting member of the HIV Health Services Planning Council should be on the review panel to make sure that the CARE Council objectives are properly represented in the process. This was not done. Obviously, the AIDS Office administrators cannot be trusted to carry out the briefing process, as you can judge from the contaminated outcome.

I have received countless complaints, objections, grievances, and outrage from numerous angry clients of the Mission and Castro offices. I have been asked by many to provide names and addresses where grievances can be submitted. I would encourage anyone that wishes to file complaints to obtain a list of names and numbers from our office. Please call us at (415) 861-6640 before May 31 and we would gladly send you the contact information.

I want all to know that we will be fighting hard for your rights now, and long into the future. We need your help in order to have the voice of the people heard. It is up to each individual to force your protests and grievances to be recognized by these shameful bureaucrats.

Dr. Gene Gowdey
Community Dental Care
San Francisco

OK for partner to be 'in'

After reading the article in the *New York Times* regarding the appointment of Anthony Romero as the new executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, I anxiously waited for the news in your paper *["Gay Latino man hired to lead national ACLU office," May 10]*.

But what a letdown. Although Katie Szymanski covered Romero's upbringing, education, and his present position with the Ford Foundation, she seemed to doubt that Romero's preference on keeping his partner "in" instead of "out" would determine his success in this civil organization.

As a Puerto Rican I was thrilled that Anthony Romero got this appointment. I do not know Romero personally but friends at the Ford Foundation do and gave very good reports on his human values and his dedication to work with the under privileged.

As a Puerto Rican I was also proud that such a prestigious civil rights organization as the ACLU would choose a young, openly gay man from a poor background to head its organization. This proves that not all Puerto Ricans can be labeled as "welfare suckers," "being born with a ghetto blaster and a blade in our backs," and in the gay community as "well-endowed and hot in bed but with no brains."

I still believe that a public figure has the right to maintain the professional privacy of his/her partner if the person thinks this is the proper way to go.

Jorge Rodríguez-Sanabria
Oakland, California

[Katie Szymanski responds: Quite to the contrary, it seems that Romero is poised to do an outstanding job. But the ACLU had prepared a response for LGBT media addressing questions already raised by the New York Times *interview.]*

McGoldrick's 'window dressing'

Regarding the housing proposals before the Board of Supervisors: I am currently in negotiation with the tenants in one of my buildings to sell them their units which they will have to hold as tenancies-in-common until they "win" in the condo conversion lottery, which could take years. It is too bad the Home Owner's for Tenants proposal is not a reality today. My tenants are excited at the opportunity to enjoy the tax advantages and financial appreciation of home ownership in San Francisco.

This will benefit the city as they will be able to make a number of improvements to the building which I have been unable to afford due the constraints imposed by rent control and the Tenant's Union's Proposition H. The property taxes paid after the sale will more than double, contributing to the city's budget.

I have total confidence that these proposals would eventually be ruled as unconstitutional and in the long term will result in nothing but expensive litigation costs for the city. I and other owners stand ready to contribute generously to the legal fund to have it thrown out by the courts should the Board of Supervisors be so foolish as to endorse it. Of course this means that my tenants' (who I consider friends) goal of home ownership will be deferred for years.

Tell Supervisors Daly and McGoldrick that there was an election last November and at least on Proposition N the Tenants' Union did not fool the people of San Francisco.

Changing the wording and a few of the specifics, Supervisor McGoldrick's 400-building "window dressing" does not mean that the people of San Francisco will allow the left wing Tenants' Union to subvert the democratic process.

No means no. Property owners and tenants seeking home ownership will not forget the actions of the Board of Supervisors on this issue when they seek re-election.

Jon Bumgarner
San Francisco

Climbing molehills instead of mountains

I returned from a very strenuous trip through the mountains and jungles of Costa Rica to find that the president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors – a man for whom I have voted once more than the number of times he has been on the ballot – has nothing better to do than to try to manage the imagery of HIV-control medicines.

Having been HIV-infected for at least 20 years, and pulled back from the edge of the abyss by Crixivan five years ago, I see the group of people above a precipice differently. I feel that protease inhibitors kept me and many of my friends functioning and doing at least some of what we aspire to do.

I think that there are very few, if any, people who would be so foolish as to conclude that getting infected with HIV is a good way to be able to climb mountains. It is safe to say that everyone in San Francisco, even for a day, is bombarded with advertising that accentuates positives and neglects negatives.

If Supervisor Ammiano is genuinely concerned about truth in advertising, I would suggest that he begin by making sure that materials promoting San Francisco show the homeless, the earthquake liquidification risks, and so on. I realize that the corruption and bureaucratic complexity are more difficult to portray – or to do anything about. Still, they are far higher on my list of problems for San Francisco supervisors to take on than overly "glamorous" HIV-drug ads.

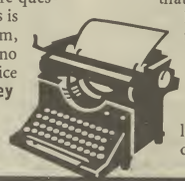
Stephen O. Murray
San Francisco

Bush indifferent to California energy woes

by Wayne Friday

With California energy problems worsening by the week and likely summer blackouts and higher electricity bills looming, Governor **Gray Davis** and President **George W. Bush** – both publicly decrying the problem – were busy playing the blame game this week with Bush blaming Davis and Democrats for outmoded environmental restrictions while the governor was accusing the Bush White House of favoring the Texas-heavy energy industry over consumers.

To be sure, there are questions about how Davis is handling the problem, but there can be no doubt that Bush and Vice President **Dick Cheney** – both former Texas oil executives – are deep in the pockets of the very Texas energy companies which Davis, as well as Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, are accusing of "gouging" California consumers.



Our Man Friday

Never mind that California politicians, under the leadership of then-Governor **Pete Wilson** who was backed by a state Legislature that was asleep at the wheel, caused much of the current problems with their flawed deregulation scheme of 1996, assuring state ratepayers that the plan would bring lower rates and plenty of energy. Both predictions, as we now know, turned out to be disastrously wrong.

While Davis has been working full time at the problem, what do we hear from the Bush White House? It is not lost on anyone that Californians chose Democrat **Al Gore** over Bush by a landslide 1.3 million votes last November. So, what are the chances of Davis convincing two Texas oil millionaires that they should come down on the price-gouging energy companies, mostly from Texas, in favor of at least temporarily ordering the feds to impose caps on wholesale energy prices? Little chance; probably none. Wholesale power prices have gone up 1,000 percent in the past year while this state's demand for energy grew by a mere 4 percent. At the same time, the profits of energy companies - many of which gave heavily to the Bush-Cheney campaign – have risen in some cases by more than 500 percent.

Does anyone seriously think that Bush and Cheney give a damn about California and its energy problems? Here is an example of how seriously Bush takes all this - when Feinstein, the senior senator of the nation's most populous state (and the state suffering most from the crisis) tried to get a meeting with Bush to discuss the problem, she had so much trouble arranging it that she finally ended up meeting with Cheney. Feinstein later told reporters that the meeting was "very disappointing ... there seems to be no interest [from the White House] in really wanting to understand the California situation."

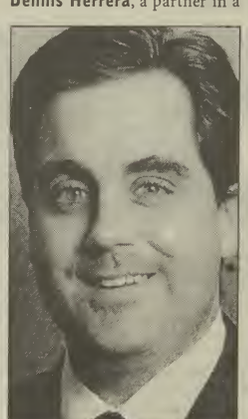
Cheney himself later told a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* that "the energy crunch is obviously a significant problem, but it, too, will pass." Doesn't sound like there is a real sense of urgency on the part of the Republican White House, does it? Is Bush really paying much attention to the California energy crisis? Well, he's made a couple of suggestions; he keeps insisting that "Congress should pass my budget" every time he is asked a question about energy. Bush apparently thinks that passing his budget would somehow solve the growing problem of out-of-control wholesale prices of California's electricity. Maybe there is really another problem for Bush. The *Los Angeles Times* pointed out this week that California has two Democratic U.S. senators, a Democratic governor, a state constitutional government (save one lone Republican), a Legislature, and a House delegation all controlled by Democrats.

Texas, on the other hand, has two GOP U.S. senators, a Republican governor and the GOP there holds every single statewide elected office. Indeed, California has become the keystone state of the new Democratic Party while Texas is now the Republicans' homeland. Californians should not hold their breath until they get any relief from Bush, Cheney, and their oil-producing friends. In fact, Cheney casually dismissed any suggestions that he and Bush were resisting price controls in order to protect Texas energy companies who are among the biggest sellers of electricity into California. "That's a silly charge, it's just goofy," said Cheney, the Texas transplant who made millions as CEO of Halliburton.

We aren't likely to get any help from those millionaire Texas oil men who are running the government; their contributors from Dallas and Houston won't hear of it. Remember those old New York City tabloid headlines that once read: "Ford to NYC: Drop Dead!"? Bush and Cheney and their boys in Texas are now telling California to "drop dead!" and seem quite content to leave this heavily Democratic state left twisting in the political wind.

Politics and people

City attorney race update: San Francisco Police Commissioner **Dennis Herrera**, a partner in a downtown law firm, became the third announced candidate for city attorney when he told reporters that he was definitely in the race to succeed retiring City Attorney **Louise Renne** in the November election. Attorneys **Steve Williams** and **Neil Eisenberg** have previously announced their candidacy for the office. Herrera, who served as a deputy city attorney before being tapped by former President **Bill Clinton** to go to Washington as chief of staff at the U.S. Maritime Administration, is an elected member of the S.F. Democratic County Central Committee and quickly picked up the endorsements of Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** and Supervisor **Mark Leno**. Attorney **James Lazarus** told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that he plans to officially enter the race "within two or three weeks" and former Supervisor **Annemarie Conroy**, the executive director of the Treasure Island Development Authority, is reportedly considering the race as well.



Dennis Herrera

Los Angeles' retiring mayor, **Richard Riordan**, a moderate Republican, endorsed **Antonio Villaraigosa** in that city's upcoming June 5 mayoral runoff. Gay and lesbian political activists there tell me that Villaraigosa, a strong supporter of gay rights, is now the favorite in that race.

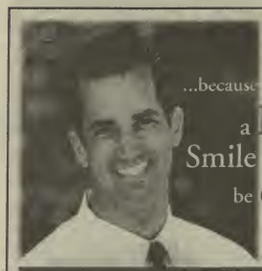
You won't see first daughter **Jenna Bush** picking up trash on Austin streets, but the University of Texas freshman pleaded "no contest" (guilty) to being a minor drinking alcohol last week; she was ordered to pay $51.25 in court costs, do eight hours of community service, and attend six hours of alcohol-awareness classes. During Ms. Bush's court hearing, she became agitated and complained to the judge when photographers snapped her picture through the windows of the courtroom so the judge dispatched two security officers to block the windows.

Speaking of Bushies: At a recent GOP fundraiser in Florida, Governor **Jeb Bush** publicly thanked those rowdy, obnoxious Republican activists who raised so much hell during the recount in the disputed presidential election, forcing some to stop the recounting votes. He compared them to "the French Resistance in World War II. ... You were the freedom fighters at a time when it was so important," said the president's favorite brother.

There was another bit of news out of Florida this week as it was reported that former Attorney General **Janet Reno** is mulling a run for governor next year; if she enters the race, she may face Jeb Bush should he decide to seek re-election.

In Washington D.C., friends of presidential spoiler **Ralph Nader** say the Greenie isn't the least bit repentant over helping swing New Hampshire and Florida to Dubya last November, so it is no surprise that Nader was seated cozily next to Florida Secretary of State **Katherine Harris** at the recent White House Correspondents' dinner at what was jokingly referred to as the "Kill Al Gore" table, where they chatted amiably. Nader associates claim their man is still "hurt and mystified" as to why so many of those Democrat-

page 11 ▶



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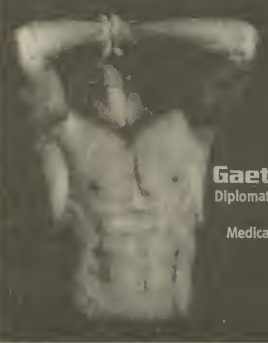
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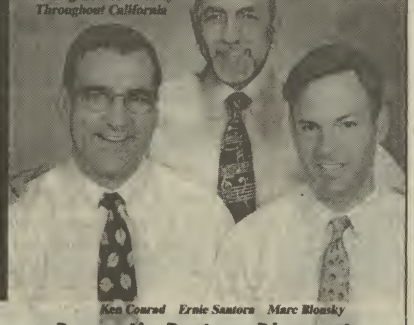
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Need to retain leaders

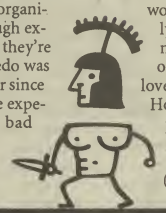
by Paula Martinac



Christine Smith

The news that Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, has resigned her post after only one year is raising quite a few eyebrows. But Toledo's departure also raises questions, not just for that organization, but for the entire lesbian and gay movement. The fact is, we expect a lot from our activists. How, then, can our organizations come up with new and imaginative ways to retain our talented, experienced leaders?

Toledo has pointed to "family matters" as the reason for her speedy exit from NGLTF, citing a need to relocate to take care of her ailing mother. In this particular case, though, it's tempting to conclude that there were other forces at work, like institutional dysfunction. After all, an organization that runs through executive directors like they're romantic flings – Toledo was NGLTF's sixth director since 1992 – can't simply be experiencing a streak of bad luck.



Lesbian Notions

But other high-level resignations – especially those of long-time veterans – have also jolted our movement in the last few years. The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's Lorri Jean decided to re-enter the for-profit sector, and rumors surfaced in the past that the Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch might do likewise. Beatrice Dohrn, legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, left to fulfill a personal goal of running a carpentry business, while senior attorney Suzanne Goldberg became a law professor. It's hard not to wonder if many leading activists are burning out after too many years of fighting the good fight.

"There are tremendous demands put on the people who work in these organizations," says Fran Goldstein, Lambda's deputy director since 1998 and an activist since the early 1980s. "The lawyers here work long hours. People are very passionate about what they're doing, and they always feel like they could be doing more. And the fact is, they could, because there's an endless amount of work to be done."

A lot, of course, depends on the personality of the activist. In the last 20 years, I've met many lesbian and gay activists who were self-sacrificing to the point of being self-righteous. You know the type: "I can't possibly quit now! My work is too important! Who will fight for our rights if I don't?"

But I also know men and women who unapologetically leave their queer-movement jobs at 6 o'clock in order to spend time with lovers, family, and friends. However, because many people have trouble striking that balance between work and personal life (even in the corporate world), our organizations have to look at the expectations they hold out for their employees.

Twenty years ago, when the movement was still fairly young, the common view was that activists should work long hours for little money. And, if an organization ran by collective, everyone took home the same meager amount on payday. In recent years, however, things have changed considerably, with the heads of the largest gay nonprofits now pulling in six-figure incomes.

"The economy and the job market forced nonprofits to raise salaries," Goldstein notes. "They had to get more sophisticated about their employees and recognize that people make sacrifices to do this kind of work." Now lesbian and gay organizations like Lambda offer competitive salaries and generous benefits packages, including paid vacations, 401(K) retirement plans, and health insurance for domestic partners and dependents.

But even if activists no longer have to starve in order to work for a queer organization, the problems of workload and time remain formidable. More and more of us are becoming parents, and many have aging family members who need our care. And the truth is, family obligations often interfere with work, as Toledo maintains they did for her. "No industry or job should be so demanding," she asserts in her letter of resignation, "that important personal matters – particularly a commitment to family – must be compromised."

Lambda has instituted personnel policies to address the thorny issues of workload and time. Like an increasing number of for-profit businesses and local governments, Lambda now offers its workers what in human-resources lingo is called an employee assistance program. Through this program, employees who are having problems like balancing a tough workload with the needs and demands of family can consult an adviser outside of the workplace and receive counseling.

In terms of time, Lambda not only offers a generous amount of vacation but also paid sabbaticals for staff who have been with the organization for six years or more and have made a significant contribution. This summer, for example, the senior counsel in Lambda's Chicago office will be taking a two-month break from the considerable demands of her job.

Eventually, lesbian and gay organizations may have to face other personnel issues, too, like daycare, flex time, and job-sharing by qualified partners. With creative thinking and planning, our movement can combat the burnout that accompanies the tiring and often frustrating work of social change. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

Pretty in pink



Rick Gerharter

Twenty volunteers turned out May 13 in Corona Heights Park to paint new pieces for the annual pink triangle display on Twin Peaks during next month's Pride weekend. This year the triangle will be 25 percent larger and illuminated at night, according members of Friends of the Pink Triangle. Organizers said that volunteers are needed for the June 23 installation and interested people can call (415) 247-1142 for more information.

What were the first gay- and lesbian-themed movies?

by Rawley Grau

May 24, 1919 (82 years ago this week): The motion picture *Anders als die Andern (Different from the Others)* opens in Berlin.

Homosexual imagery has appeared on screen from the dawn of cinematography. As early as 1895, the Thomas Edison Studio produced a short piece in which two men danced a waltz together. Strangely poignant, the experimental sound film was titled *The Gay Brothers.*

A 1916 Swedish work called *Vingarne* (*The Wings*) is probably the first movie to deal seriously with homosexual themes – namely, an artist's obsession with his male model – but it was not widely distributed. Far more important was the German film *Anders als die Andern* (*Different from the Others*), which opened in one of Berlin's major movie theaters in May 1919. Along with its tragic tale of love and blackmail, the film presented an explicit plea for the acceptance of homosexuals.

It's no accident that the film was made in Germany, where a thriving gay and lesbian subculture was emerging amid the social turmoil that followed World War I. Germany was also home to the world's most advanced gay rights movement, which was centered around the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, a group that had been fighting for sex-law reform since 1897.

The committee's founder, Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, co-wrote *Anders als die Andern*; he also appeared as a therapist in the film and made an impassioned appeal for tolerance. Hirschfeld's fellow scriptwriter – and the film's producer and director – was Richard Oswald, already well-known for his "enlightenment films," which examined current social problems such as alcoholism and prostitution. Although *Anders als die Andern* fits comfortably in this genre, the problem it highlights is not homosexuality, but rather society's injustice toward homosexuals.



Today only about 20 minutes survive from what was originally a full-length feature. But a synopsis published by Hirschfeld's institute lets us reconstruct the plot.

Paul Koerner, a concert violinist (played by the Conrad Veidt, fresh from his sensational performance in *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*), falls in love with one of his pupils, a young man named Kurt. The two are very happy together until Kurt discovers that Paul is being blackmailed by Franz, a young man Paul had once picked up in a gay bar. Kurt leaves Paul, and Paul and Franz eventually both end up in prison, Franz for blackmail and Paul for homosexuality.

After his release from jail, Paul, abandoned by all his friends, fatally poisons himself. A similar fate would befall countless future gay movie characters, but in this film Hirschfeld and Oswald offered some hope. Kurt, weeping over his lover's body, vows to work for justice for homosexuals, and the film (in the original version) ends with the image of a hand erasing the sodomy statute from the law book.

Despite favorable reviews and box-office success, *Anders als die Andern* was banned in several major cities, and public protests accompanied screenings in Berlin. Finally, in August 1920, the German censor board prohibited the film from being shown to the general public, though private screenings continued to be permitted "in places of learning and scientific institutions."

In May 1933, soon after Adolf Hitler came to power, Nazis stormed Hirschfeld's institute and destroyed its holdings; virtually all the complete prints of the film are assumed to have perished in the raid. The 20-minute version that still exists resurfaced in the Soviet Union in the late 1970s.

Anders als die Andern primarily concerned men, but its social message did refer to homosexual women as well. While lesbians appeared in other German silents, too – most vividly in G.W. Pabst's *Pandora's Box* (1928) – it wasn't until 1931 that love between women received a full and sympathetic treatment on screen.

Maedchen in Uniform (*Girls in Uniform*) – again, a German film – featured an all-female cast directed by Leontine Sagan. Scripted by lesbian writer Christa Winsloe and based on her own play, the movie was set in a strict girls' school headed by a harsh disciplinarian.

A new student, named Manuela, falls deeply in love with Fraulein von Bernberg, a kind, young teacher who, for her part, is obviously moved by the girl's beauty and spirit. When Manuela publicly declares her feelings at a party following a school play (the girl is still in male costume), the headmistress is appalled and orders her confined to the infirmary. But von Bernberg defends Manuela: "What you call sins I call the great spirit of love, which has a thousand forms." Meanwhile, Manuela runs from the infirmary and is about to jump off the railing of the school's main stairwell, but von Bernberg and the other girls manage to rescue her.

Although it, too, was denounced by the Nazis, *Maedchen in Uniform* did not suffer the woeful fate of *Anders als die Andern*; excellent complete prints of the film have survived.

Nevertheless, in order for the film to be shown in the United States in the 1930s, its distributors had to cut important scenes revealing the depth of Manuela's feelings, as well as von Bernberg's defiant statement about "the great spirit of love." Consequently, this stirring portrayal of lesbian love was reduced to a "wholesome little tale of schoolgirl crushes," as one American critic described the censored version. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Dyer, Richard, 1990. *Now You See It: Studies on Lesbian and Gay Film.* London: Routledge.

Kuzniar, Alice A., 2000. *The Queer German Cinema.* Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

Russo, Vito, 1987. *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies.* Revised edition. New York: Harper and Row.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

ic House members, once considered his Capitol Hill friends, no longer return his phone calls.

And in case you missed it, here is the reaction of S.F. Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley**, who recently adjourned the state Assembly in memory of **Mrs. Landingham**, the fictional television character who died on *The West Wing* after her car was struck by a drunk driver. Speaking of his wife's (and his) reaction to the plot twist: "It was tragic. She [his wife] was crying; I was upset." Uh, Kevin, it's a television show.

City Hall wags tell me it probably isn't a great idea to invite Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** and fellow Supe **Leland Yee**, once close political allies, to the same cocktail party. Ammiano isn't the only person in the LGBT community who is likely to remember Yee's vote against health benefits for transgendered city workers or his vote some time ago against a shelter for gay youth in the Castro.

This year will see an end to Republican mayors in heavily-Democratic New York City and Los Angeles, the country's two largest cities; both candidates in the L.A. June 5 runoff are Democrats and the four leading NYC mayoral candidates also are Democrats.

And we should know that the 2000 census moves San Francisco, with a population of 776,733, up from 14th to 13th place in ranking the nation's top cities, but still two places behind 11th place San Jose.

In the U.S. Senate the "Strom watch" quietly continues as 98-year-old Senator **Strom Thurmond** (R-South Carolina) shuffles around the Capitol, barely knowing what he is doing or what is going on. Meanwhile, South Carolina Republicans are frantically trying to figure out a way to pass legislation that would force Governor **Jim Hodges**, a Democrat, to name a Republican as his replacement should Thurmond be unable to complete his term. The Senate is evenly split at 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans. Increasingly frail, Thurmond's rapidly failing health has the nation's capital on tenterhooks.

Oakland City Council member **Nancy Nadel** says she will run against Mayor **Jerry Brown** next year and members of that city's progressive community are said to be weighing whether to endorse Nadel or former Council member **Wilson Riles** as their best chance of unseating the former governor-turned-mayor in March of 2002.

And if you want to know how Oakland Raiders coach **Jon Gruden** made *People* magazine "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" list, it's simple – Gruden says he does nothing special, except "when I emerge from the shower I don't blow-dry my hair, I just let it flow in the wind" (got that, you Raiders fans?).

California Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante**, the first Latino elected to statewide office in over 100 years, speaking to the Los Angeles Natural History's dinner last week as the special honoree, quipped that "I'm California's 45th lieutenant governor; 10 of my predecessors became governor. I thought that was a good sign until I later found out that two went to prison and one was shot in a duel; either I have something to look forward to or something to watch out for."

And how was your week? ▼

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Mail impersonator

by Jane Warner

Crime & Punishment

100 block of Collingwood, May 17, 9:20 a.m. A woman walking her dog near Eureka Valley playground was approached by a man who asked her to cash two checks, telling her, "If you cash these, I'll split the money with you." The woman suspected the checks were stolen after noticing that the man had several pieces of mail sticking out of his backpack. Declining his offer, the woman left and walked to the post office at Diamond and 18th and reported the incident. The mail clerk called police and the suspect was found sitting on the steps of the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Officers discovered several letters addressed to other people in the man's backpack and a paper sack containing mail by his feet. When asked where he got mail addressed to 13 different people, the man replied, "I found it in a Dumpster." The 21-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked on possession of stolen property, mail fraud, and one outstanding traffic warrant. Bail was set at $10,000.

Inside job?

900 block of Dolores, May 15, 9 a.m.: A man who was away for five days returned to his house and found two strangers in his living room. The strangers were picking up clothes strewn about the floor that the man recognized as his. The man's roommate came out from a bedroom and explained that the men were friends of his and the house had been burglarized. The roommate showed the man where the suspects had kicked in the man's locked bedroom door. A valuable phone kept in a shoe box had been replaced with a rock wrapped in bubble wrap. When the man told his roommate he was going to call the police, the roommate told his friends to leave and said he was going out to buy a doorknob. When the police arrived two hours later, the roommate still had not returned. The resident told officers he suspects his roommate of the burglary, as he recently tried to evict him for failure to pay rent.

Failed courtship

17th and Dolores, May 19. 1 p.m.: Walking out of the coin-operated laundry on the corner of 17th and Dolores, a woman saw a man sitting in a dark blue Lincoln who yelled out to her. The woman ignored the man and walked with her laundry basket to her home a few blocks away. About 10 minutes later, the woman left her residence and saw the Lincoln Town Car parked in front of her house. The driver leaned out the window and told her, "I said 'hello,' lady." The woman ignored the man and kept walking. When she approached 14th and Church, she saw the Lincoln parked on the corner. This time the driver told her, "I want to fuck you, bitch." Frightened, the woman called her boyfriend who responded within a few minutes. When the boyfriend ran up to the car, it suddenly sped away. The harassing driver is described as 55 years old and balding, wearing black rimmed glasses and a tan shirt. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

Donate an ear to CUAV's violence hotline

by Katie Szymanski

Are you looking to help survivors of anti-LGBT violence or domestic abuse?

Community United Against Violence is seeking compassionate people with a commitment to social justice to work the Support Line, a volunteer-run hotline for people in need of counseling and advice. CUAV will provide free training – with meals and snacks included – beginning Thursday, May 31. Volunteers should attend a total of eight separate training sessions that range in length from a few hours to all day, but the education and even marketable skills gained will be well worth the investment.

"We understand if people can't make one session," said CUAV's Tina D'Elia. "But this is a pretty standard training schedule. We're covering a lot, from hate crimes to domestic violence to oppression, to transgender 101. We'll be watching videos and getting a sense of both legal and basic counseling issues. It's really broad, which is great, and also gives folks time to practice and do role plays. Plus people get fed."

The first training session runs from 6-9 p.m. on May 31 and the next one is Saturday, June 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The remainder of the sessions fall both during the week and on Saturdays, running until June 21. Training takes place at CUAV's new location in the Mission at 160 14th Street, at Shotwell, which is convenient to all public transportation. There is a special stipend of $125 available to bilingual volunteers who complete the training. People of color and transgenders are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Those interested in helping survivors of prejudice and violence should call Ananda (extension 323) or Oscar (extension 316) at CUAV, (415) 777-5500. ▼

Hearing in mauling case postponed

by Ed Walsh

A hearing that will consider whether to throw out the homicide charges against the caretakers of the dogs involved in the dog mauling of Diane Whipple has been postponed until Tuesday, May 29. This time the delay was not at the defense's request but because the judge assigned to the case was on jury duty.

Robert Noel, 59, is charged with involuntary manslaughter. His wife, Marjorie Knoller, 45, is charged with second-degree murder. Knoller was with the dogs during the fatal January 26 attack in the hallway of the apartment building where they lived next door to Whipple and her partner, Sharon Smith. The attorney couple is also being charged with keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

The couple's lawyers are trying to get the murder and manslaughter charges dismissed on the grounds that the mischievous animal charges preempt prosecutors from also filing homicide charges.

Noel and Knoller have been in custody since their arrests following a grand jury indictment on March 27. Knoller's bail is set at $2 million, Noel's is $1 million. ▼

Horizons

◀ page 2

be willing to do so.

"The down side is that two-thirds say they would wait for their child to raise the issue. The parents may hold the key to acceptance and may not be using it."

Parents in focus groups, Lake said, expressed "discomfort" with homosexuality.

She offered the following responses from the Owings Mills group:

"I don't agree with it, but people are entitled to do what they want, as long as they are not hurting anybody," from a white mother.

"Normal is the majority. A mathematical deviation is something that is not the average. Homosexuality is not the average. So it's a deviation," from a white father.

"I would like them [children] to have information on people who have come out of the homosexual lifestyle, that have been homosexuals for a long time, people think they cannot be cured but there are many statistics and organizations that they have come out, gays and lesbians have come out of that lifestyle," from a white mother.

Orientation

Similarly with adults in other surveys, Lake found, "parents narrowly believe that people choose their sexual orientation, rather than being born gay and lesbian. Views on the roots of sexual orientation are significantly related to people's views on LGBT issues."

Survey results showed the following:

• African American parents believe by a 10 point margin that sexual orientation is a choice. A total of 46 percent believed it was a choice, while 36 percent saw it as innate.

• White parents believe by a narrow margin that homosexuality is chosen (41 to 38 percent).

• Hispanic parents are divided on the question of nature versus nurture (38 percent choice versus 39 percent innate). A slightly larger share are unsure or believe both factors influence sexual orientation. ▼

Lesbian prom king under attack

by Katie Szymanski

National news this week that a lesbian prom king had caused turmoil in her hometown of Ferndale, Washington, highlighted the homophobia of the community, but failed to mention the heroic efforts of the prom king herself, high school senior Krystal Bennett.

Bennett won the prom king honor in early May after she wrote in her own name and many friends voted for her. She beat out the prom queen's boyfriend, and within days, the local conservative radio station blasted the victory, and the high school hosted a closed community meeting where a future policy was discussed to limit future prom king titles to boys, and queens to girls.

The prom king vote "imposes something that our society is not yet ready to accept," according to a parent quoted in one news story. "These types of things ultimately lead to chaos."

There's no word yet on how the school will handle transgender students or why gender chaos is considered to be a bad thing. But the real story, according to locals, is not the prom title itself, but the fact that Bennett, the school's only openly gay student, has been single-handedly leading the fight for equality for the last four years.

"She's been doing this all by herself," said *Seattle Gay News* writer Matt Nagle. "It always helps her to get encouragement from others because she has been so beaten down by the people around her."

Bennett, who received her first piece of hate mail addressed to the school about the incident on Tuesday, May 22, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the situation started out as uncomfortable but now has her questioning her safety.

"The police have said, 'Call us if you need us,' but there are little things you don't really think about, like walking through a grocery store full of angry people," said Bennett. "My mom keeps saying not to let it all get to me, but sometimes it just cracks you."



Prom king Krystal Bennett

Bennett said most of the hatred directed toward her has come from adults. Consider, however, that one of the people she considers a political ally at school is student body president Landin Fusman, who told the Associated Press that, "I guarantee the vast majority of our school thinks there is something a little bit disgusting or very wrong with homosexuality, but if you think it's wrong, try to change them in a loving fashion."

Gina Fagan Kley, the co-chair of the Bellingham Watson County chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and a friend of Bennett's, told the *B.A.R.* that Ferndale as a town (population 8,000) was more friendly toward change than the high school administration.

"There was a racist incident here where a student received a hate letter, and the principal didn't do enough. So the kid had to go to the city council, which passed a proclamation declaring Ferndale as a hate-free zone, prohibiting racist and homophobic slurs," said Fagan Kley. "The school has refused to adopt that policy."

Ferndale High School Principal David Hutchinson did not return phone calls from the *B.A.R.*

"It's a difficult time for Krystal, who has been on a one-person crusade to stop harassment," noted Fagan Kley. "These parents are saying all these horrific things about her, and she's just a kid. She's proud of who she is and comfortable with who she is, and that makes her threatening."

For Bennett, all the hatred has caused her to reflect on whether she will remain in the area for her college education. She had previously considered moving to San Francisco to study art, but changed her mind to be closer to her family and study diversity and the law at a nearby university.

"The hate mail I got today said I should move to San Francisco," said Bennett. "And I thought, hmmm ... that's kind of funny. Maybe I'll reconsider that."

Although there are "quite a few people who have been really supportive," according to Bennett, "they're not around everyday. Talking to them just once a week is hard."

She was further rocked by the news that the notorious Reverend Fred Phelps may be picketing her graduation on June 9.

But for Bennett, what started out as a personal quest has become political, a reality she does not regret regardless of the attacks.

"The prom king election wasn't a stunt by the gay community, like some people are saying. I didn't do it for anybody but myself. I just wanted to win as bad as any other guy, that's why I did it," said Bennett. "It has become political, and I'm glad that it has to an extent, because it got the issues rolling." ▼

LGBTs more likely to smoke, study says

by Ed Walsh

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adults are a lot more likely to smoke than heterosexuals, but ironically, LGBTs are also much more likely to be aware of the risks associated with smoking, according to a poll released last week.

The study found that over a third (36 percent) of adults who self-identify as LGBT smoke, compared with a quarter (25 percent) of all adults.

Paradoxically, the poll by Harris Interactive conducted with Witeck Combs Communications also found that LGBT smokers have a more realistic view of the dangers of smoking than the general population. The poll found that 96 percent of LGBT smokers say that smoking "will probably shorten" their own lives compared with 80 percent for all adults. While 88 percent of all adults believed smoking increases the risk of lung cancer, 98 percent of LGBTs did. Similarly, 84 percent of adults surveyed said they believe smoking increases the risk of heart disease compared with 98 percent of LGBT people.

When it comes to kicking the habit, the differences aren't as pronounced. The survey found that 75 percent of LGBT smokers have tried to quit, compared with 80 percent of the general adult population. On average LGBT smokers have tried, and failed, to give up eight times, the same frequency reported by other smokers.

Kirk Kleinschmidt, of the American Heart Association, and the co-chairman of the San Francisco Tobacco-free Coalition, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that this most recent study is backed by other studies with similar results. He cited several possible reasons for the higher smoking rates in the LGBT community including cigarette advertising in LGBT publications, the bar culture, internalized homophobia, and the use of cigarettes to cope with the stress of an often unaccepting society. Kleinschmidt said more anti-smoking advertising needs to be directed toward the LGBT community. For those who want to quit, Kleinschmidt recommends The Last Drag, which provides free smoking cessation classes and programs directed toward the LGBT and HIV-positive communities.

Harris Interactive, best known for the Harris Poll, used data quoted in this study from two surveys. The data for the LGBT community is from a poll of 137 adults surveyed online last January using the same sampling and weighting methods Harris Interactive used to accurately forecast the presidential elections, according to researchers. The data for the total population came from a Harris Interactive survey of 1,011 adults conducted by telephone over the same period. ▼

The Last Drag can be reached through www.lastdrag.org or (415) 565-7672, ext. 351.

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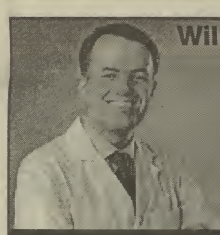
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Hundreds attend first National Conference on Gender in Washington

by Katie Szymanski



Bob Roehr

GenderPAC's Riki Wilchins: "This is a revolution of the obvious."

It's not often that women's rights, genital mutilation, cross dressing, radical sex, and race and class are addressed in the same conversation. The links among various populations were not just drawn but shown to be unavoidable at the first National Conference on Gender in Washington, D.C., an historic event last weekend that brought together virtually all the possible gender identities while at the same time asking that these identities not be the basis of political organizing.

"This is a revolution of the obvious," Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC, told the crowd at the opening plenary. "Everybody knows that gender is a problem. But nobody has thought of it as the backbone for a civil rights movement."

"Even when the gay rights movement started using LGBTQQ," agreed Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women and a featured speaker at the plenary, "we were still leaving people out."

Over 450 people attended the conference, which featured workshops and panels; a "gender law institute" co-sponsored by Georgetown University; a lobby day on Capitol Hill; and an awards gala to honor individuals and groups for their work on gender rights. Participants included lawyers, activists, youth, and professionals, and came from most states, including California, which had over 50 representatives. Sponsors were as diverse as the audience, including the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom, Verizon Wireless, PlanetOut, Gay.Com, NOW, American Airlines, and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition.

The weekend was quintessential GenderPAC, down to the multi-gendered bathroom the organization secured for participants in the lobby of the Washington Court Hotel. And the organization that has recently been under scrutiny from queer groups for refusing to be limited to transgender interests was able to make its mark as a group that refuses to exclude any population from the fight for gender rights.

Heavy baggage

Broad as its mission is, neither GenderPAC, nor its conference participants, could easily package a message to characterize the movement. Questions about how to incorporate various identities into an identity-free movement continued to plague nearly every workshop.

GenderPAC's Wilchins has long tried to get lesbians, gays, and bisexuals to realize that gender is a key issue in the fight for queer rights; victims of gay bashing, for instance, are usually singled out for their gender presentation, and even gay employment protections won't help a woman dismissed for being "too butch" or refusing to wear makeup. Yet the mainstream media has continuously confused gender identity and sexuality as one and the same. How can we link gender issues to gay rights, wondered a conference participant, while simultaneously educating the public that they are not the same identities?

Another aspect of gender rights is the right of people to present themselves in a "typical" or "hyper" fashion; the lesbian femme continues to suffer invisibility, and the drag queen or male cross dresser is the target of criticisms from feminist groups who have fought long and hard to liberate women from makeup and high heels. There needs to be space, agreed conference participants, for people to reclaim negative stereotypes without being labeled anti-feminist.

Also missing from most conversations about gender are intersex people, babies born with ambiguous genitalia who are often assigned as male or female at birth and surgically sculpted accordingly. The clitoris and penis, it was noted, are basically the same organ, yet society revolves around the size of this piece of tissue. Hale Hawbecker, an intersex man who has been told by doctors he has both a "small penis" and "enlarged clitoris," managed to escape surgery that would have designated him a female. But Angela Moreno Lippert was not so lucky; during puberty she started to develop a large clitoris to which she became "quite attached," and she was whisked away to an operating table under false pretenses. Noting the "comfortable truths" applied to genitalia as it relates to gender, Lippert remarked, "It's an awful lot of baggage for an ounce of flesh that just wants to party." The role of intersex people in the struggle for queer as well as gender rights could actually throw a lot of movements on their head simply by challenging the process by which most of us are labeled.

Finally, the inclusion of people of color and all classes in the movement was targeted by participants for the very word, "inclusion;" unless these people are part of the decision-making process about agendas, then they will always remain on the outside.

"The problem is that politics are formed at conferences like these that require privilege to attend," noted one woman in the audience. "If identity is not an issue, then how can you receive people who cannot give up their identities, who live in a power structure of identities within their own culture?"

Having the conversation

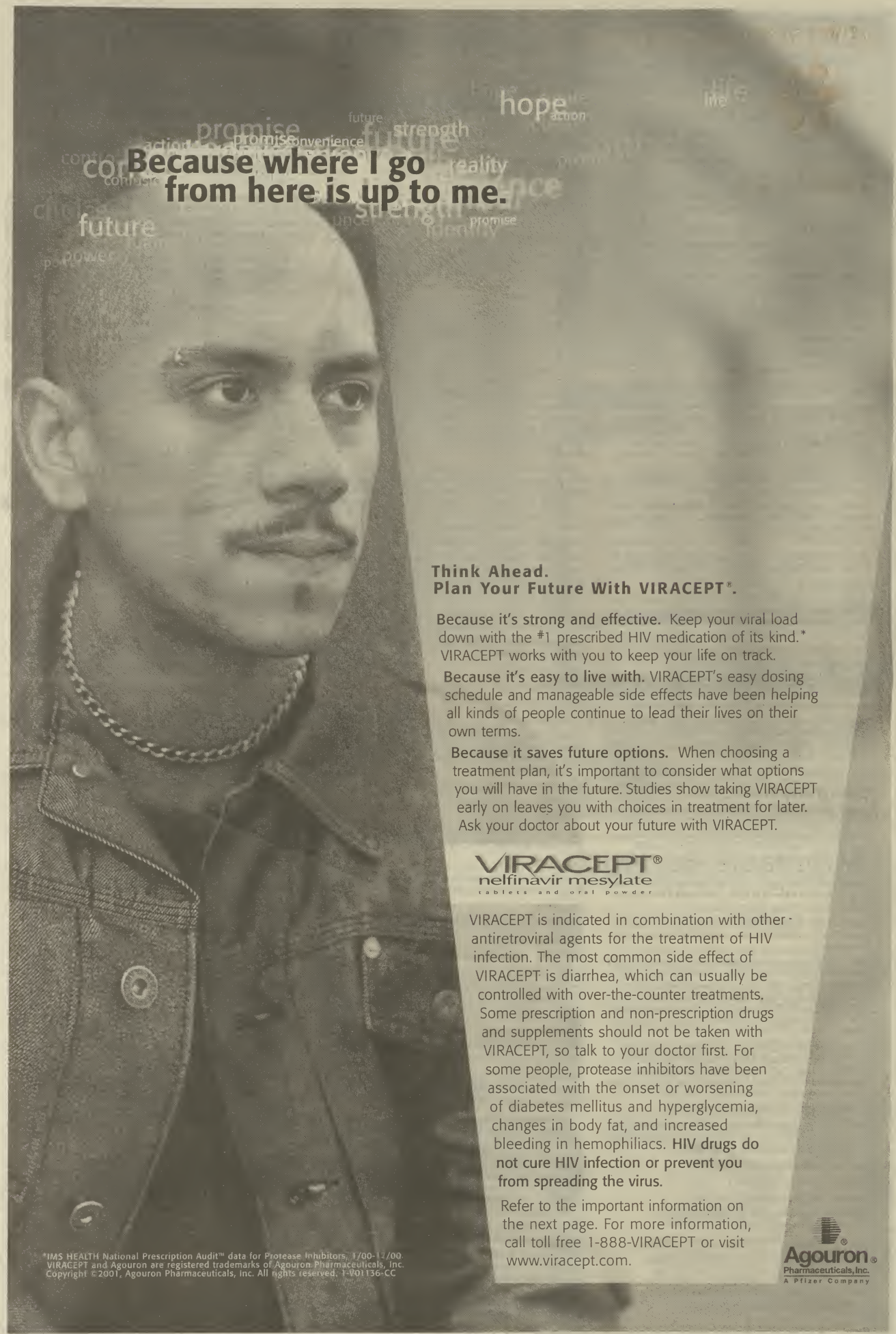
There were no simple solutions to the questions brought up at the conference. Most people agreed, however, that perhaps the answers were not as important as finally figuring out exactly what the questions are, particularly as they relate to changing a mainstream system so rooted in a binary gender system that even the term "transgender" – originally used as an umbrella term for all variance – has come to be interpreted by many as a transitioned male or female in the traditional sense.

"This was not only a conference but also a training institute to help bring different kinds of gender activists together, get them more educated on the issues, and help energize them," Wilchins told the *Bay Area Reporter*, noting that it can be more productive to have a dialogue rather than a fixed message. "There is tremendous ferment going on about what it means to ensure full equality for all Americans regardless of their gender, and even what kind of organizations we need to have. We're committed to making GenderPAC the premier organization for gender rights in the country and this conference was part of that. It may take other organizations to explain the specificities of all those different identities, and that's okay. All important things don't necessarily have to be done by the same organizations."

If there is to be a unified message, said Wilchins, perhaps for GenderPAC it would be around the constitutional right to expression.

"It's important for people to understand the concept of free speech," s/he said, "without necessarily understanding all the identities of those who avail themselves of that right." ▼

Full disclosure: Katie Szymanski participated on a panel at the conference.



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Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

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Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:
Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of	Number of	Number of
Kg	Lb	Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†	Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59ºF and 86ºF) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Helms bashes gays with Boy Scout amendment

by Bob Roehr

An amendment to an education bill introduced by the anti-gay Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) that would prohibit local school districts that deny "equal access" to the Boy Scouts of America from receiving federal funds has drawn fire from gay rights advocates.

"For years the Boy Scouts of America organization has been subjected to malicious assaults by some homosexuals and some liberal politicians simply because ... [they] have steadfastly continued to uphold their moral and decent standards," bellowed Helms on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

He was speaking in support of an amendment to an education bill (S.1) that he introduced on May 14. It would ban federal funds to any local school district that "denies equal access" to the Boy Scouts or other groups because of their policy on homosexuals. The Department of Education Office of Civil Rights would enforce the provision.

Helms tore into the "more than 800 gay-straight alliance clubs" in schools across the nation that have been formed with assistance from the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. He called GLSEN "a radical group committed to promoting immoral lifestyles in the schools systems of America."

But as if to pull his punches on the impact of this amendment, Helms added, "Historically, the fund termination sanctions has been infrequently used ... It's highly unlikely that any school will in fact ever have its funding cut off."

"Sadly, the old Jesse Helms is back, using his position of power to bully those with whom he disagrees," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. "The Boy Scouts have always had, and have access to schools, so this is really nothing more than a punishment in search of a problem."

GLSEN is urging its members to contact their senators expressing opposition to the Helms amendment. A vote is likely before the Memorial Day recess. GLSEN offers a sample letter on its Web site (www.GLSEN.org). The traditional education groups are preoccupied with spending, construction, and voucher issues associated with the education bill and most are giving this amendment little attention.

One reason to hope that the Helms amendment will not pass is its inconsistency. While Helms supports the right of the Boy Scouts to have a policy to discriminate, he denies school boards their right to have a policy that prohibits discrimination. Furthermore, he injects a federal presence into what traditionally has been a bastion of local control.

However, some observers noted that the greater reality is that in the crush of legislation, senators will not have the time to fully examine every amendment and will vote for it out of fear of being labeled anti-Scout.

Helms has been surprisingly responsible during much of his tenure as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, earning plaudits from Democratic colleagues and the Clinton administration.

Gays are one of the few whipping boys that he uses to appeal to his most rabid base of support. Another is abortion, and Helms offered two anti-abortion amendments to the same education bill. The 79-year-old, who uses a motorized cart to get around the Senate, has said that in September he will announce whether or not he will run for a sixth term in 2002. ▼

Maryland protects gays, fringe group issues challenge

by Bob Roehr

Maryland became the 12th state to extend legal protection to gays and lesbians when Governor Parris Glendening signed the Anti-Discrimination Act of 2001 on May 15. It will take effect on October 1.

The ceremony capped a decade-long struggle to pass the measure in the heavily Democratic state. It ended largely because the governor made it personal, lobbying long and hard in the name of his brother, Bruce, who pursued a closeted career in the Air Force before dying of AIDS.

"It's been 10 years of struggling for our civil rights. To finally see it come to fruition is just an amazing experience," said Blake Humphreys, managing director of Free State Justice, the principal gay and lesbian organization behind the measure.

But the struggle may not be over. A fringe group of radical social conservatives, operating under the name TakeBackMaryland.org has initiated a petition drive to put the legislation before the voters. The organization is modeled after a similar "take back" effort that formed in reaction to gay civil unions in Vermont. "The Free State must NOT be taken captive by Homosexual Lobbies and Special interest groups," it wailed on its Web site.

The referendum petition is highly unusual in Maryland where the process is difficult. The petitions must have the legislation either printed on the back or stapled to each sheet circulated for signatures. The legislation begins: "The Act would add 'sexual orientation' to various anti-discrimination provisions" of state law. That makes it more difficult to misrepresent the intent of the legislation.



Bob Roehr

Blake Humphreys

The circulators have until May 31 to file 15,376 valid signatures of registered voters with the secretary of state. If they pass that hurdle, they have an additional month to boost the total to 46,128 signatures. There are further requirements of geographic diversity. If sufficient signatures are filed, the law will be suspended pending outcome of the November 2002 election. Few such efforts have been tried and fewer have been successful in Maryland.

TakeBackMaryland.org claims to have gathered 10,000 signatures, in a May 15 press release. It is aiming for 20,000 by the end of May and 50,000 by the end of June. Humphreys says they are monitoring the situation and will review and challenge signatures that do not appear to be valid.

"A lot of churches have contacted us saying that they have received mailings asking them to do the petition drive, but we haven't seen them at malls or other places trying to gather signatures," said Humphreys. "The Maryland Catholic Conference has informed us that this is going on, and they didn't want any part of it." The conference was the strongest voice of opposition in the state Legislature.

"We'll check the signatures thoroughly, every one," said Nancy Meyer, chair of Free State Justice. "We are in the process of formulating a comprehensive response."

"The people of Maryland believe in fairness," said Glendening spokesman Mike Morrill. "I'm absolutely confident they will continue to reject those who promote hate and bigotry."

The same group of far right fanatics recently tried a petition drive to overturn domestic partner benefits for county employees of Montgomery County in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. They failed to get the necessary number of signatures. ▼

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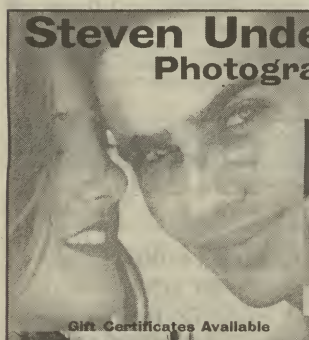
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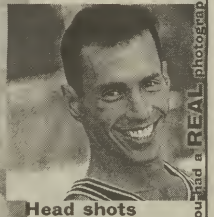
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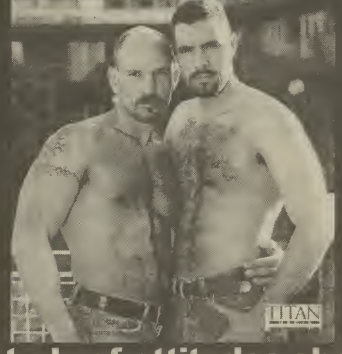
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AIDS vigil

◀ page 1

rally and people called out names of loved ones they have lost. A wall at the library was turned into an impromptu altar with photos of many of those lost to the disease.

This year's march reflected some themes that have drawn increased attention over the past year. Many transgender marchers took part in the vigil, and Veronika Cauley of the Transgender AIDS Advocacy Advancement Peer Project, reminded the crowd that while the city has a new law providing access to healthcare coverage for transgendered city workers, many transgendered people still have HIV and AIDS. Said Cauley, "We all know someone who has touched our lives who has or had AIDS … think of those you have lost, think of those still infected, and if you are infected, think of yourselves."

Another theme, reflected in posters and the words of several speakers, was the plight of people with HIV/AIDS in Africa and other poor countries. The situation in Africa has received a great deal of attention this year as treatment advocates have demanded increased funding and access to cheaper generic versions of patented anti-HIV drugs.

Different participants in the march had various reasons for taking part. Several marchers carried signs with photographs of their deceased loved ones. Marc Adams, a Bay Area social justice activist, said he was there because AIDS is still killing people. "I'm HIV-positive," said Adams, "and one day I may be one of the people that others are remembering at an event like this."

Supervisor Mark Leno said, "There is wisdom in this community in having rituals to remind us of those who have died and to remind the greater community that AIDS is not over." Leno continued, "We must remain vigilant in our pursuit of a cure, better treatments, and more assistance for those living with HIV."

Jeff Sheehy, a longtime AIDS activist and former president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, said that 20 years after the first case of AIDS was reported, "nothing has changed," and that "at every level, we're under assault." Sheehy decried the "pathetic" $200 million that the Bush administration has pledged for AIDS funding for developing countries, and noted that the California power crisis has cut into funding for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

"We need a new wave of activism … we must lie down in the streets again … we must be arrested again," Sheehy said.

The Reverend Jim Mitulski, GLBT outreach coordinator for the library's James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, welcomed the assembly to the library, and spoke of what he sees as a growing tendency to blame those who are newly infected. "We must say that we are in solidarity with every person with HIV," he said, "whether they have had it for one month or 20 years." Speaking of the growing proportion of AIDS deaths among homeless people, Mitulski emphasized that "fighting HIV means battling poverty and prejudice."

Michael Siever, director of the Stonewall Project harm reduction initiative, sounded a similar theme, saying that "the war on drugs has done more to spread AIDS than any other policy," and that people who use drugs must be treated with dignity.

Other speakers and performers at the rally included emcees Sister Roma and Empress XXXIII Alexis Miranda, transgender activist Felicia Elizondo, Casa Segura director Chris Catchpool, San Francisco poet laureate Janice Mirikitani, longtime AIDS activist Michael Lauro, and Sylvester back-up singer L.Z. Love.

To conclude, Leno and Siever read an international declaration to United Nations delegates, who will be meeting in a special assembly on AIDS in late June. The declaration makes several demands, including education for all people about HIV and AIDS; an end to discrimination against people with AIDS; the need for debt relief for poor countries and the mobilization of local, national, and global resources to fight the disease; and access to care – including life-saving medications and supportive services – for all people. ▼

Boy Scouts

◀ page 1

consideration by East Bay Pride.

"We're not going to back down, nor run away from any fight for civil rights of LGBT people, including youth," King said, "But I will also work with any organization that shows even the smallest amount of willingness to meet half way. I feel that's what the Bay Area Council has done."

His next targets: tackling the Oakland Raiders football team and tournament sponsors.

One of those walking the line between public perception and national BSA policy is Michael Dybeck, the council's program administrator.

Dybeck late last week told the *San Francisco Chronicle* the ad would not be changed.

But he also told the *B.A.R.* on Monday that "within the San Francisco Bay Area Council, to my knowledge we have never removed a youth for anything related to sexuality."

Asked if any gay youth had been prevented from joining the Scouts here, he added, "I've never heard of a case within the council of anything like that."

He repeated the national policy line that, "We believe that sexuality is not part of scouting, and that we should let children be children.

"We are focusing on getting the resources to make scouting available to all children," Dybeck said. "For example, this tournament targets programs to help inner-city children at risk in Oakland and San Francisco.

"We won't be able to go into some areas, due to lack of resources."

Telling the truth

In his letter to the council, King, a former Scout and former local leader of Camp Fire Boys and Girls, pointed out that the national BSA policy was that "gay youth are unwelcome…" He asked tournament adviser John Moaratty to live up to one of scouting's "most important principles: to tell the truth."

He asked the council to drop the inclusive language in the ad or change it to say the tournament "is a great way to make sure no heterosexual child misses" scouting's opportunities. King wished organizers a successful tournament.

In a separate letter to Moaratty, Oakland/East Bay PFLAG Vice President Rita Kresha said, "Since June 28, 2000, many organizations, schools, clubs, and churches have mobilized to tell BSA that you can't have your cake and eat it too."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on that date that BSA could not be forced to include gays because of its First Amendment rights. In the aftermath of the case, *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, corporate funding to the BSA has plummeted.

East Bay Pride met Wednesday with the major telecommunications firm Zhone, a top corporate sponsor of the tournament, which supports the local Scout council and other programs such as Learning for Life that are affiliated with the BSA.

Zhone's director of communications, Tim Donovan, who is openly gay, told the *B.A.R.* his firm was very gay-supportive.

"Why we support the tournament is probably less about the Boy Scouts and more about the Raiders," Donovan said. "The [Zhone] chairman is friends with [Raiders owner Al] Davis and we're trying to be good citizens for localized events."

On the central issue, Donovan said he also needed to wear his "corporate hat," noting that the corporation ultimately needs to spend money that is best for its needs.

But he also took the Boy Scouts' national anti-gay policy to task, adding, "I look at my childhood. It would have been so good if there had been an institution like the Boy Scouts say 'You're okay just as you are, as gay.' They rob themselves of some pretty terrific candidates and have proved themselves to be less an institution of leadership and more an institution of ignorance.

"We gay people are not going away anywhere, and we're getting tired of [discrimination]. People like me are not going to be quiet. We run corporations, communications, engineering firms, banks … and we can write big fat checks."

The Raiders, who have supported the local Boy Scouts via the golf tournament and other efforts, just slammed into a legal wall themselves. The team this week lost a $1.2 billion lawsuit against the National Football League over a broken deal designed to let them return to Los Angeles.

East Bay officials hope to keep the team in Oakland. East Bay taxpayers have already shelled out $100 million in public subsidies for the team.

Regarding the Raiders' tournament and ad, King said, "We're going to give the Raiders the benefit of the doubt. We're not accusing them of being homophobic [by running the ad]. We're thinking that they are indeed sponsoring the tournament for children. But because of the Boy Scouts' national policy against gays, we'd like to see a good-faith effort."

King said East Bay Pride would like to see the Raiders include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy, and also take the opportunity to help sponsor the annual East Bay Pride celebration later this year.

"We're making it very, very painless," King told the *B.A.R.* "It's a symbolic thing, not blackmail. We're asking for $1,000. A thousand is nothing. We'd be happy if they'd pay full price, $10,000, but this is just a gesture. I've also said they can come up with their own alternative."

The Raiders had not returned calls from the *B.A.R.* by press time.

The tournament last June and other activities raised more than $200,000 for local scouting efforts. The Raiders' tournament Web site features photographs of participants golfing or getting tips. One photo shows a uniformed Scout and a member of the team's Raiderettes cheerleaders, above the caption "The Raiderettes made this Scout's day." ▼

HIV vaccines: Optimism and frustration

by Bob Roehr

The search for a vaccine against HIV got a huge boost when former President Bill Clinton committed to developing one by 2007 in a speech at Morgan State University in 1997. Few doubt the need. An estimated 15,000 new infections a day occur throughout the world, most in nations too poor to afford therapy. Prevention is key, and a vaccine is the ideal capstone to prevention activities.

The AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) has used the May 18 anniversary of Clinton's speech to issue an annual report on progress made toward the goal of an AIDS vaccine. This year's edition, "Six Years and Counting," offers an upbeat assessment of momentum gained over the last year.

But huge problems remain and major questions seem no closer to being answered than they were at the start of the epidemic. That became apparent in a May 16 telephone news conference that AVAC had with reporters.

On the plus side, AVAC Executive Director Rose McCullough counted "several new and interesting studies in monkeys of vaccine that have demonstrated good levels of protection;" increased participation by industry in HIV vaccine research by many who had earlier shunned such activity; continued and increased research funded by the National Institutes of Health; and many more candidate vaccines that are about ready to enter human trials.

She said, "The promise of that progress requires a new level of political and scientific leadership." That includes continued increased funding of research, passage of tax credits to draw industry's commitment, and expansion of global capacity to test vaccines in the populations most affected. It will require leadership from the United States.

Basic science

But as everybody readily admits, vaccine trials in monkeys are not the same as trials in humans. At the level of basic science, monkeys do not become infected with HIV so researchers use a simian virus (SIV), somewhat akin to HIV.

Most monkey trials vaccinate the animal, wait long enough for protection to develop, then expose it to a single dose of SIV high enough to infect 100 percent of unprotected animals. Six months later, if the animal does not develop infection, the vaccine is considered a success.

This may be good science, but it does not reflect the way that humans are likely to be exposed to HIV though continuous sexual activity. Nor does it reflect the fact that levels of protection with many vaccines decline over time. There is some evidence to suggest that the protection from HIV may fall especially quickly, perhaps in just a few months.

Researchers followed a small group of prostitutes in Kenya who were continuously exposed to HIV yet did not become infected with the virus. These few examples offered hope that it was possible to develop a natural immune protection from infection, and hence a vaccine that stimulates the same type of protection.

But many of these women developed HIV when they took a break from the trade and then went back to it after a few months. This suggests that they needed constant exposure to HIV to maintain their natural defenses and that those defenses fall rather quickly once exposure is reduced.

Many people see as a hopeful sign the fact that about a dozen candidate vaccines are nearly ready for human trials. The vaccines cover a huge range of approaches, use various different parts of the HIV genome, boosting agents, and inoculation strategies to try to elicit immune protection.

But the very diversity of approaches is an indication of how little researchers know about "the correlates of protection," of what is the critical immune response that people need in order to fight off HIV infection. "We don't have that information yet," said Dr. Susan Buchbinder during the conference call. She is a vaccine researcher at the University of California, San Francisco and works with the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She hopes that some of that information will come from initial large-scale trials "to help guide future efforts."

Another open question is whether a single vaccine can be developed that is effective against all of the strains of HIV. Researchers have identified a handful of major strains of the virus, each with their own multiple variations within that strain.



Rick Gerharter

Dr. Susan Buchbinder

Influenza (the common flu), like HIV, is another highly divergent and rapidly mutating virus. New variations of the flu vaccine have to be prepared and populations inoculated on an annual basis to afford some protection.

Protecting people

"Sterilizing immunity" represents the optimum goal of a vaccine. It means that a person will completely resist exposure to a virus and no trace of it will be left in their body. Most researchers believe that an HIV vaccine will not protect 100 percent of those who receive it, at least not initially and perhaps not ever.

While some people may be protected, the initial vaccines likely will prime the immune system so that any infection is a kinder, gentler version of HIV disease that develops more slowly and can be better controlled.

"You could argue that in some parts of the world it would be better to slow disease progression than not to do anything at all," said Buchbinder. It may be that countries and risk groups make different decisions on about when it makes sense to use a vaccine with limited effectiveness.

Complicating the matter further is the issue of "therapeutic vaccines." Can a vaccine or another agent that is given after a person becomes infected, help boost the immune response to better control HIV infection? The answer seems to be yes. And that makes the risk/benefit of a vaccine that offers only limited protection even more difficult to evaluate.

The practical matter is that it takes a minimum of four years to complete early phase I and II trials that test for safety and immune response in small groups of people. Phase III trials, the larger population studies that test vaccines under real world conditions to evaluate their protective power, take even longer.

Only three products have even entered human trials, and expectations for them are muted. As David Gilden, with the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), concluded, "It is going to take at least a decade to begin to see if a vaccine is partially effective, at best." ▼

South Africa: Government disappoints AIDS activists yet again

by S. Predrag

The South African government has not only delayed the implementation of Nevirapine trials, but has now dashed any hopes that the antiretrovirals would be made available to AIDS patients on public health care any time soon.

Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang told the media last week that the government would resist any pressure to provide the 4.7 million HIV-positive people in South Africa with antiretroviral drugs in spite of a recent victory in the Pretoria High Court over 39 leading pharmaceutical companies.

"Some are going to be disappointed that we are not going to give the ARVs [antiretrovirals] tomorrow, but it is this message which does not get through – that people are getting treatment even if there are no ARVs," Tshabalala-Msimang was quoted in a local daily the *Mail & Guardian*.

Both local and international AIDS activists, as well as many thousands of HIV-positive people, are disappointed but not really surprised.

Just hours after a landmark victory in the Pretoria High Court on April 19, Tshabalala-Msimang hinted that President Thabo Mbeki's government could not afford even the cost of the much cheaper generic anti-AIDS drugs. As expected, she also insisted that the drugs were "very toxic."

Now, in her latest interview, the health minister claimed that even an offer by Bombay-based Cipla Ltd. to deliver a triple cocktail at a price of U.S. $250 per patient per year was unacceptable.

"It is $250 times millions of people times the infrastructure that we do not have times the health workers who are not yet trained times prevention measures," she explained.

Tshabalala-Msimang, who has declined many times to acknowledge that HIV causes AIDS, denied that the government has not done anything to save HIV-positive and AIDS patients. She claimed that the government was already helping patients with common opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis.

Instead of buying the generic copy of antiretroviral drugs, she said that South Africa would now use its new legislation to obtain cheap antibiotics for tuberculosis and other infections that are already killing people whose immune systems have been weakened by HIV.

As expected, Tshabalala-Msimang stressed that the government would also "advise on good nutrition to keep people well while investing in prevention measures."

Dr. David Rasnick and other dissidents, who were the members of Mbeki's advisory panel of scientists, are still claiming that people in Africa are not dying of AIDS, but due to malnutrition, poor hygiene, and a lack of sanitation. They are still rejecting the use of antiretrovirals as "totally unjustifiable."

However, mainstream scientists insist that antiretrovirals have positive effects, particularly when it comes to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In fact, the South African government is likely to face a new legal battle after temporarily halting the use of Nevirapine that is shown to prevent mother-to-child infection.

Last year the Department of Health promised to begin widespread trials of the drug, but in the latest about-face on the HIV/AIDS crisis, it has now referred the issue to the Cabinet.

The country's strongest HIV/AIDS advocacy group, the Treatment Action Campaign, has accused the government of breaking its promises and is considering legal action. TAC spokesman Mark Heywood described the government's latest tactic as a sign of "po-

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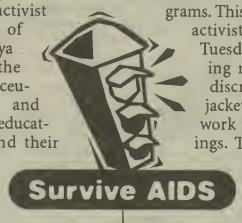
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Support Survive AIDS Kenya

by Virge Parks

In the city of Nairobi, there is an organization called Survive AIDS Kenya.

This organization was started after one of the founding members visited San Francisco and attended the Pride Parade. Much like its sister organization here and similar activist groups, members of Survive AIDS Kenya are questioning the policies of pharmaceutical companies and their government, educating themselves and their fellow Kenyans, and defining pertinent issues and acting upon them. Like those who years ago founded ACT UP chapters across our continent and in Europe, members of Survive AIDS Kenya are fighting against seemingly insurmountable odds, an epidemic that is devastating their country and community. They are also pressing their government for the right of gay men and lesbians to associate freely, as well as for same-sex partnerships. Homosexuality is banned in Kenya as in most African countries. Gay men and lesbians meet in secret – afraid of being arrested for expressing their sexuality.



There were times in ACT UP history – like that of most grassroots organizations – when the work depended upon donated supplies. Some of our most consistent "donors" were members' employers and various University of California, San Francisco programs. This compulsive AIDS activist confesses to on Tuesday evenings tucking rolls of fax paper discreetly under her jacket on the way from work to ACT UP meetings. Those who could, made long distance phone calls from work. Many of you reading this have done the same, rationalizing that in this buy-it-in-bulk society we live in, the occasional missing ream of paper or personal long distance call are never noticed. ACT UP members had the added rationale of the theft being for a damn good cause. The anonymous donors were no longer needed once the group developed more fundraising savvy and had steady money coming in.

The treatment regimens of several members of Survive AIDS Kenya are being provided by the African AIDS Network. The AIDS Empowerment and Treatment International, a program of the network, also provides support to an association in Nairobi that is helping patients access treatment and care. AIDSETI was started by gay employees of the World Bank who questioned how international organizations and governments have addressed the AIDS epidemic thus far and wanted to do more to directly support those fighting AIDS in African and other resource poor countries.



Rick Gerharter

Participants in Sunday's AIDS Candlelight Vigil had Africa on their minds.

That support, however, usually doesn't pay for fax paper and phone calls; and Survive AIDS Kenya members rarely have access to some fully stocked supply cabinet from which they can procure "donations." They do not have the well organized and comparatively affluent gay/lesbian, HIV, and medical communities that have so generously supported the work of ACT UP/Golden Gate (now Survive AIDS San Francisco).

Not everyone in Kenya is impoverished and in time, Survive AIDS Kenya will establish a solid network of local and international supporters. They will also most certainly create their own merchandising tools and hone grant-writing skills. But now, they are asking for your support.

Survive AIDS San Francisco has already given the organization $250 in seed money and will match your contributions up to an additional $250. Please send donations and make checks payable to Survive AIDS San Francisco and reference "Kenya." They can be mailed to Survive AIDS, 584 Castro Street, PMB 542, San Francisco, CA 94114.

All donations received will be bank wired to Survive AIDS Kenya and because of a high exchange rate, even the smallest of donations can make a big difference so all are appreciated. ▼

Virge Parks is a former member of ACT UP/Golden Gate. She currently works for the African AIDS Network, which provides HIV medications to approximately 100 patients in six African countries. For more info, go to www.aidseti.org. To donate HIV medications, call (415) 440-3722 or drop them off at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street, in San Francisco.

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Bush announces $200 mil for global AIDS fund

But activists say that it's not enough

by Liz Highleyman

President George W. Bush announced earlier this month that the United States would contribute $200 million to a global relief fund for AIDS and other infectious diseases.

At an African AIDS summit in Nigeria last month, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed the establishment of a $7-10 billion fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in developing countries. It is expected that the fund will be officially announced at an HIV/AIDS special session of the U.N. General Assembly in June.

The May 11 announcement made the U.S. the first country to pledge money for the fund. Bush said that the U.S. would likely contribute more money "as we learn where our support can be most effective."

Annan, who stood with Bush and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as Bush made the announcement, expressed his hope that the U.S. contribution would set an example for other countries. "This founding contribution by the United States with the promise to do more will encourage and energize others to act," said Annan. "I believe today will be remembered as the day we began to turn the tide." Obasanjo thanked Bush "on behalf of all AIDS sufferers in the world, but particularly on behalf of all AIDS sufferers in Africa."

Yet the administration's largesse will likely not come without conditions. Bush stressed the need to focus on AIDS prevention as well as treatment, and requested that funded programs should mention abstinence as a means of preventing HIV infection. He also emphasized that the fund "must respect intellectual property rights as an incentive for vital research and development," a reference to the recent furor between developing countries and pharmaceutical companies over the production and import of cheaper generic versions of patented AIDS drugs.

It is not yet clear where money for the new fund will come from, and several advocates demanded that it not be taken from existing international development aid. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the money would come out of existing State Department and Department of Health and Human Services accounts, and would not affect existing funding. Speaking to a House of Representatives panel, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the pledged money will come from "funds that we believe are available from other accounts, not taking away from any of the HIV funding we are doing now." Powell and Bush both encouraged participation from private foundations, individual philanthropists, and non governmental organization in addition to governments.

AIDS advocates criticized the Bush administration for not pledging a larger sum. According to Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont), the $200 million amount "falls far short of what the wealthiest nation in the world should be contributing." David Bryden of the Global AIDS Alliance called the contribution "criminally small," while Dr. Peter Lurie of Public Citizen's Health Research Group called it "miserly."

The HealthGAP Coalition characterized the pledge as "a PR spectacle instead of desperately needed money for AIDS in Africa." Some 80 activists, including members of ACT UP/Philadelphia, ACT UP/New York, and New York's Housing Works, held a demonstration in Washington, D.C., on May 11 to demand greater funding. Said Kate Krauss of ACT UP/Philadelphia, noting that the U.S. contribution amounts to approximately $7 per person with AIDS in Africa, "It may pay for lunch for a few days, but it's not going to buy AIDS drugs, and it won't keep anyone from dying." Activists also held a protest on May 14 in Philadelphia, where Bush was on hand to announce a new $550 million effort to combat gun violence by boosting the prosecution of gun-related crimes. ▼

David Bryden of the Global AIDS Alliance called the contribution "criminally small."

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries.

George Gayuski

October 5, 1952 — March 29, 2001

George Gayuski died on March 29, 2001 at 12:36 a.m. in San Francisco. George was born in Independence, Missouri and grew up in Ethiopia, France, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, all of which he loved. He lived a short period in Boston and New York City before coming to San Francisco in 1973 at the age of 20 to begin Buddhist practice.

Buddhism was central to George's nature and ethics. His practice was marked by many auspicious coincidences and access to many excellent, endlessly patient and loving teachers. He felt at home in San Francisco mostly because of the liberal, progressive and compassionate area citizens. ...And he did love the gay boys.

George was always an airline industry enthusiast. He loved his management career with American Airlines; American supported him well during his illness and for this he is deeply grateful.

A memorial service will be held at Zen Center Green Gulch Farm on Highway One near Muir Beach, Marin on May 20th at 3 p.m. Offerings in George's name should go to the AIDS Emergency Fund or the effective charity of your choice. And please, always support human dignity and beings in misfortune.

We invoke the wisdom and compassion of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas to escort George through an auspicious transition and a new life filled with blessings.

He was cared for at home by many loving friends and family members. George died peacefully.

Robert Henry Kirsch

April 13, 1961 — May 2, 2001



Robert Kirsch passed away in prayer at California Pacific Medical Center, Davies Campus, after a struggle with lymphoma.

After growing up in Sonora, California, and following a tour of duty with the United States Army, Robert relocated to San Francisco. Robert worked for Falcon Studios from 1992 to 1995, when he started Titan Media.

Robert was also a composer and musician, serving as the musical director for the Closet Ball from 1993 to 1997. He also wrote two musicals, *Streets* and *Living Letters*. He was once requested to submit a song to Barbara Streisand.

He joined City of Refuge church in 1993, and was a very proactive member, doing all graphics, print work, and web design for all church organizations. He was also a member of their choir and their AIDS hospice, Ark of Refuge. In 2001, he started a web ministry for City of Refuge.

Robert was well-loved, a friend to all who chose to know him. His passing came as a surprise to many.

A memorial service for Robert will be held on Wednesday, May 30th, at 7 p.m. at City of Refuge, Church of Christ, 1025 Howard Street, San Francisco, between 6th and 7th streets.

Donations in Robert's memory may be made to Northern California Sled Dog Rescue/Robert Kirsch Memorial Fund for Mattie, P.O. Box 1833, Martinez, CA 94553.

Castro Theatre

◀ page 3

a large-scale, top-to-bottom job that both fully restores and modernizes the city landmark.

"This is the city's only architecturally important single-screen movie theater that is still in operation. It is important to the LGBT community as well as to the film community, and has international recognition and influence," Rielly told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We're delighted the Nassers are committed to fixing up the theater and we want to work with them so that they can do the best job possible. My premise is that if it's going to be renovated, it should be over-improved, and done definitely. For years and years there have been Band-Aids on Band-Aids on Band-Aids. It's very important to make sure it's around for 100 years, but what we as a community have in mind might cost more than what is reasonable to expect the Nassers to pay for."

Rielly said that while work is being done, there is a "real opportunity to put a digital infrastructure under the building to help support all kinds of activities."

"Now that the Nassers are restoring it there's a chance to do it properly, and we look forward to a productive dialogue," said Rielly. "We have no formal deal or arrangement, we're just helpful people trying to do the right thing. So we'll be doing public advocacy and helping to support them however we can."

In addition to Rielly – whose idea for the foundation was literally sparked while attending a film where an electrical short set the seat in front of him on fire – the Castro Foundation team consists of Gary Meyer and Paul Richardson, co-founders of Landmark Theatres; Chris de Heer, co-founder of Caregiver Zone; and Lorne Buchman, former president of the California College of Arts and Crafts. The foundation has also retained John Pflueger, architect and nephew of the original Castro theater architect Timothy Pflueger, who has carefully preserved the building's original blueprints. Its advisory board includes many representatives of the film, media, and arts industries.

For the immediate future, said Rielly, the Castro Foundation will concentrate on funding the feasibility studies and sponsoring the upcoming San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival as a way to introduce itself to the community.

The Nasser family has announced that it plans to retain the theater's current programming director and manager when it takes over operations this summer. The 1,500-seat movie palace is the profitable home of the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the Jewish Film Festival, and the Silent Film Festival, among other community events. ▼

For more information, visit www.castrofoundation.org.

Open Hand

◀ page 1

stronger presence in the East Bay," Project Open Hand's Communications Director Tim Etheridge told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Now that we don't have to drive across the bridge, we're cooking in the kitchen and serving people hotter, fresher meals."

He said the new operation would save up to three hours in commuting time for the meals.

The kitchen service is expected to serve at least 400 people before long, out of a total of around 800 current clients in the East Bay

"This is a dream come true," said Executive Director Tom Nolan, thanking numerous sponsors and volunteers on whom Project Open Hand relies. "Back in 1985, when this was started, Ruth Brinker simply said, 'Yes, I can help' – that was our total strategic planning."

After Brinker, a grandmother, watched a close friend die of AIDS, she began preparing meals in a San Francisco church basement for seven PWAs. Now, Project Open Hand is a $10 million operation based in San Francisco that offers nutrition counseling and groceries, and good meals along with "the knowledge that you are not alone."

A few years ago, the agency took over the senior lunch program after the Salvation Army did not want to comply with San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance.

Seven million served

Over the years it has served more than 7 million hot meals, on the principle of giving people the nutritional tools they need to fight disease.

Last year 5,000 people with HIV/AIDS received food from Project Open Hand. Around 3,500 seniors received lunches, and more than 110,000 bags of groceries were distributed.

Board of Directors chair Tom Harris noted that the East Bay program started on October 17, 1989, the day of the Loma Prieta earthquake. Volunteers rallied to disaster relief efforts.

Michael Shaw, HIV coordinator for the Alameda County Office of AIDS, told the assembly that opening the Oakland kitchen "shows that anything can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit."

The organization depends on hundreds of volunteers to help with food preparation, cleaning, and delivery. Many show up weekly, some daily.

"The county owes Project Open Hand a real debt of appreciation," Shaw said. "I hope people will continue to support it even much more than they do now."

Shaw added: "Today, I came in but I didn't look ... I smelled something wonderful. Now the people who need to be served can be served."

Among the major contributors to the East Bay operation honored by the project's staff and board were The Gap Foundation and Wells Fargo, which gave $50,000 each, and Macy's West and Providian Financial, which contributed $100,000 each. Donors are being recognized by a Wells Fargo Room, a Macy's Grocery Center, and a Providian Financial Kitchen.

Project Open Hand has raised more than $500,000 toward construction of the kitchen and grocery center, and is seeking to raise another $120,000 so the grocery center can open.

Executive Chef Michael Coggins told the *B.A.R.* that Project Open Hand cooks standard mass meals and batch meals for those with special dietary needs.

He said the group hopes to serve up to 400 people before long.

Coggins said students at the California Culinary Academy will be teaching and learning at the site in a production catering class.

Project Open Hand is funded in part from Ryan White CARE funds via the San Francisco and Alameda County public health departments. In San Francisco, the senior lunch program is funded through the San Francisco Commission on the Aging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and senior contributions. ▼

For more information, call Project Open Hand in the East Bay at (510) 596-8200 or in San Francisco at (415) 447-2300. The Web site is www.openhand.org.

South Africa

◀ page 19

litical interference in health policy."

The Congress of South African Trade Unions has also called on the government to speed up the campaign for affordable drug treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS.

COSATU called on big corporations to provide free AIDS treatment for infected workers and their families, while the mining and industrial giant, Anglo American Corporation, has already started negotiations with Cipla Ltd. to purchase cheap AIDS drugs for its HIV-positive workers in southern Africa.

Interestingly enough, distribution of fluconazole (Diflucan), useful in the treatment of oesaphageal thrush and cryptococcal meningitis, has recently started in some state hospitals in the Western Cape, one of South Africa's nine provinces.

Diflucan's manufacturer, Pfizer, donated the drug to South Africa free of charge, but only for the next two years. This has prompted some AIDS lobbyists to claim that Mbeki's government would be wiser to start manufacturing its own generic copy of AIDS drugs through compulsory licensing.

However, when the health minister was asked if her government would ever consider granting a compulsory license, she replied, "To be frank ... we haven't thought it through." ▼



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Memo: Real day

by Jim Provenzano

The worlds of tennis, martial arts, and wrestling converge at tournaments and clinics this holiday weekend, proving there's more to do than barbecue.

The Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation of San Francisco will host hundreds of players to compete in the 21st annual U.S. Gay Open.



For Men's A, B and C divisions the tournament takes four days, starting Friday, May 25. Play in all other Men's and Women's divisions begins Saturday, May 26. Finals are held on Monday, May 28.

The event is played on hard courts, with most play outdoors at the San Francisco Tennis Club, San Francisco State University, and Golden Gate Park Tennis Complex.

This year marks the first time in the tournament's history that a prize money pool has been established for Men's and Women's Open division players. The pool is $1,200 and will be split amongst champions and finalists in the singles events.

Gay Tennis President Kyle Childress noted that it's too late for non-members to join this weekend's tournament activities, but the 21-year-old club welcomes new members year-round.

"We're probably the biggest GLBT tennis tournament," he said. "Perhaps the biggest in the world. The USGO is one of about 25 or 30 GLTA tournaments around the world every year. We think we're the oldest, but someone in Texas claims otherwise."

Other big tournaments are in Los Angeles on Easter and Labor Day. Seattle and San Diego have tournaments on Fourth of July. Some 15-20 S.F. tennis players attend out of town events on a regular basis. Less than a dozen went to Amsterdam's Gay Games, and Sydney's seeing similar numbers contemplating the trek down under for Gay Games VI.

Childress emphasized the social aspects of the group, "for people whom competition isn't their bag. Practices are more organized and depend on who's doing it."

Childress had played a bit of tennis in college in Alabama, "but throughout my post-collegiate life I played gay basketball. My boyfriend played tennis and basketball. I found basketball to cause more injuries. I'm 38, but my knees feel like 55."

Aside from a few aches and pains, Childress finds comfort from the friendships that evolve through the club. "It still is a different kind of world. There are utterances and actions that only a gay tennis group would make."

A knee-d to play

For Amy Bronstone, tennis has been a lifelong sport. She took group lessons in her childhood hometown of Los Altos, California.

"I had played off and on casually in college, and eventually had a male roommate who had played competitively in college, and got me interested in GLTF," she said. "That's when I started playing more regularly and got into it.

"I felt comfortable being part of a gay and lesbian club. I was having fun, I just wanted to get better. I have a competitive nature, so I hooked up with some pros that were part of the club." Bronstone captains a club-sponsored women's team that competes in USTA events.

Having played soccer in high school, her legs are strong, but she recently tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and had surgery last July. She's been back on the courts for a few months.

"Knee injuries are common," Bronstone said. "ACL tears are five times more common in women. There is a lot of sudden turning and twisting."

Although she'll compete, she will be careful. "I don't know anyone who isn't sore after a tournament."

Not too tired to see the French Open in a few weeks, a high point of her next vacation.

Who would she most like to see play live? "Jennifer Capriati," she said. "It's been great to watch her comeback. I don't like Martina Hingis as a personality, but strategically how she plays the game is marvelous to watch. I like players with an all-court game. You watch how they develop points. It helps to visualize hitting the ball with the right technique, their footwork. Then you go out there and know you're not Martina."



Award and peace: Gay Tennis Open Men's B division 2000 champs, from left, Wayne Baumgardner, Peter Dang, Jim Walker, and Alan Chin take home the gold, er, Lucite.

Or Billie Jean King? The recent ABC-TV movie about the famed King-Bobbie Riggs match struck Bronstone as "pretty campy. It was probably a big deal for them to deal with gender and equity."

She considers a greater drama to be played out in the sports media. "I was more interested in how they handled Amelie Mauresmo's coming out. I definitely hope she does well. She was very courageous.

"My main interest is to get more women joining the club. We have all levels. I think people get intimidated by the notion of having to be better than they are. We want to win and we're competitive, but there is a more nurturing side. We're really supportive of one another. There's a lot of ribbing on and off the court."

Certainly more than a bit of ribbing at the annual "Hag" tennis tournament, where drag-clad players rival Bobbie Riggs for low drag in high tennies.

Doubles dances

Domestic partners also find opportunities on the court. David Dancer, who recently moved to the Bay Area from Washington, D.C., with partner Paul Frentsos in January, finds tennis a great social outlet for couples.

"We didn't know anyone in the tennis group, but visited the Web site," and signed up when they arrived. Since then, they've played in social doubles a few times, and attended a few fundraisers.

While Dancer played volleyball and Frentsos swam in college, the two now focus more on tennis. "We found that tennis is a good way to meet people socially, and we can do it together. I've been extremely surprised how welcoming they've been."

Another player is Todd Mavis, who started lobbing at age 10. His family played in Michigan and Kansas, where he grew up.

"When I was really young it was recreational, then I played on the high school team," he said. "I went to Berkeley, but I continued to play. Because it's an individual sport, it's a little easier to be gay and not worry about the team aspects of sports."

Mavis heard about the gay league last year and joined. He traveled a lot for work so wasn't able to play often enough, but with a Bay Area-based job at Well Fargo, he makes more time for tennis. Along with playing in the spring league, "I'm also teaching my boyfriend to play.

"One of the challenges of being gay is meeting people, that you can have a common bond, other than your sexuality," he said. "We meet people who are gay who also play tennis. I try to share my passion for tennis. It's a challenge for gay couples to meet other people."

Crouching grapplers, hittin' dragons

Eureka Valley Rec. Center will be almost as busy as its neighbor, the recently renovated Cala Foods.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club will host its annual Memorial Day weekend clinic and tournament, and welcome almost a dozen wrestlers from New York City, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Team captain Johnny Almony considers wrestling "the most challenging sport I've ever done, even after having done triathlons for nine years. And talk about a great outlet when you've had a rotten day."

Robert Durino is one of many adult men who came to wrestling later in life than most, since 1998. "I like that it's an individual sport," he said. "I have to be adept, cunning, and agile. I also like the competition; tomorrow is another day."

And while most see the attractive aspects as spectators, Durino sees the competition itself as beautiful. "It's a graceful sport. Guys who can't dance can finesse on the mats. The sport keeps me mentally fit, physically active. It keeps me competitive with guys younger than me."

Over a dozen local men and women of GGWC will partake of an informal practice Friday night, a Saturday full of drills and technique, followed by various social activities. Sunday, a bit of competition in freestyle wrestling will take place in the gym.

Some wrestlers enjoy the competition, while others prefer "the team spirit," as Brad Taylor calls it, as well as "getting to know people on a different level. You never know anyone until you have wrestled with them."

With a strong martial arts background, Erika Hom prefers the more relaxed practice environment, compared to a dojo. "The only competition in wrestling that I acknowledge is the one with myself, to get better, smarter."

Several GGWC members competed in the recent Far Western Tournament at San Francisco State, and many more will trek up to the Russian River for a very dif-

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UCSF UNITY PROJECT

Housing

◀ page 3

The McGoldrick proposal would provide a separate pool of 200 apartment units that could be converted under the condo conversion law by tenants who are at or below median income.

Currently there are no limits on TIC conversions, under which people buy shares in a building and live in its apartments, while owning it collectively.

Critics have argued that conversion from tenancy to ownership denies affordable housing to many by displacing renters and taking a great deal of needed housing off the market.

TICs are seen by proponents as a way for people to own homes in a far overheated San Francisco housing market that gouges both renters and buyers.

"I have met and talked with tenants who voted against Proposition N last year, who want to own their own units, and their message has been clear," McGoldrick said. "They want to have the opportunity to own their own units, but they have no desire to do so by displacing existing tenants.

"I therefore have carefully crafted this legislation to meet both goals.

"Even tenants who opposed Proposition N have told me that they do not believe in gaining their homes by cannibalizing the homes of others. My legislation provides a realistic opportunity for affordable home ownership for tenants while also bringing TICs under existing regulations, as they were always intended."

Daly's ordinance comes after voters last year rejected Proposition N. The measure, supported by tenant activists, would have capped conversions of rental units to owner-occupied TICs, setting the limit at 200 per year in line with the cap on condominium conversions.

McGoldrick's proposal targets TICs formed on or before January 1, 2001, making them eligible for conversion to condos.

This would affect 2,000 more units than Daly's plan, McGoldrick said. ▼

New College

◀ page 5

cember.

For Bill Hershon, director of the reentry project, who himself received his law degree from New College several years ago, it was a joyous day.

"These graduates, the first with law degrees, join over 50 other students who have earned their bachelor's and master's degrees through this program over the past six years," Hershon said.

Hershon added that during their course of study, the four graduates in the reentry project served in several community-based internship programs such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, the San Francisco District Attorney's office, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Lawyers Guild.

In all, 31 law students graduated last Saturday. New College's law school is the oldest public interest law school in the country. One of the law school graduates, Jonathan Joiner, is deputy director and a co-founder of the reentry program. The graduating class is a diverse group of men and women, about half of which expect to have a career in law.

"Thirty years ago this fall, New College was founded by a renegade Jesuit priest," said Peter Gabel, president of New College. He spoke of the importance of law schools like New College's, which place an emphasis on social justice work, and studying the law in an effort to help the underserved in society, including the poor, immigrants, and others. "The idea of New College was the embodiment ... born out of the impulse to alleviate human suffering," Gabel added.

U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson gave the keynote address. "Given the current admission policies [imposed by] Proposition 209, it seems to me especially important that schools like New College continue," Henderson said.

Henderson has served on the federal bench since 1980, and is now a senior judge. In 1989 he had a role as Judge Baum in the film *True Believer* that starred James Woods and Robert Downey Jr.

"Lawyers always seem to be in the middle of decisions," Henderson told the graduates. "It's a grand profession which does not shy away from controversy."

He also mentioned the importance of attorneys in today's society. "It's difficult to stand equal under the law without a lawyer at your side." ▼

For more information on the HIV/AIDS Reentry and Empowerment Project at New College, call (415) 241-1356.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

ferent festive technical display and party at Club FAB. The June 9 rasslefest will be a fundraiser for the team's 2002 trip to Gay Games VI.

Another expense that's been paid for by previous fundraisers are the spanking clean new mats that are on order and hopefully will be unveiled at this weekend's events. The current mats, while sturdy, are years old, and new ones will be a welcome change, particularly for those of us who spend a bit too much time with our faces being smushed into them.

For more info, visit http://www.ggwc.org or call: (415) 821-2991.

White gi-clad martial artists in varying colored belts will be sharing the rec. center, showing ways of the hand, and the powerful art of combat and self-defense. Master Craig leads practices twice weekly at Eureka, where the "Hai! Hai!" shouts of students in training echo through the gym.

Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club Info: Master Ken Craig is at (415) 567-8866 or e-mail ttkdc@aol.com. To contact the Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists, contact Allen Wood at jimallen@backinsf.com or (415) 563-1655 (call after 5 p.m.) or write IAGLMA, P. O. Box 590601, San Francisco, CA 94159. On the Web: http://members.aol. com/IAGLMAdo/

To read an account of Jim, a Triangle Club member and his achieving 1st Dan, go to: http://www.rahul.net/jag/pennsword/martial_arts.html.

More on these low-grabbing, high-kicking festivities next weekend. Until then, pop an e-mail to promote your next sporty event or team fundraiser at JimProv@excite.com, or visit http://sportscomplex.org. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.248028
The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuzu. 510 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Non Profit Organization signed Cue, Inc., JoAnne Sanchez, Director of Business Enterprises. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/16/01.The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/01.
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248029
The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuzuz. 2415 Mission Street. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Non Profit Organization signed Cue, Inc., JoAnne Sanchez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/16/01.The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/01.
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248424
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bella Bella Catering. 1479 10th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Sauncey L. O'Leary. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 04/24/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/26/01.
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248413
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gee Tee's Sand And Gravel. 363 Head Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gregory Nathaniel Tyson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/25/01.
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248502
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rong Li International Company. 2408 38th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Victoria Wei Li Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/30/01.
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Chaung Tina Kee Hua, Tong Frank Sein Min. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 825 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for:
41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.320679
In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Elizabeth White, For change of Name. The application of Sarah Elizabeth White for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Elizabeth White has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sarahjane Dylan White. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248648
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Sandwich Shop. 635 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chong S. Chin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 4, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/04/01.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0237859-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Sandwich Shop. Located at: 635- 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 1/24/2000.
This business was conducted by: a individual: Yun S. Lee.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2000

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Berkey Stephen Charles. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1081 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. Type of license Applied for:
48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES
MAY 10, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.320274
In the Matter of the Application of Brian Cash Geer, For change of Name. The application of Brian Cash Geer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Cash Geer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Cash. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.321029
In the Matter of the Application of Gregory James Sekeres, For change of Name. The application of Gregory James Sekeres for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Gregory James Sekeres has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gregory James Szekeres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248806
The following person(s) are doing business as: Jalaram Investment Inc. 2060 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amit Motawala, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01.
MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.321162
In the Matter of the Application of Diane Kang For change of Name. The application of Diane Kang for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Kang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rhee Jun Kang. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12h day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248962
The following person(s) are doing business as: Payless Moving And Hauling. 3068 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Onkar Gusain. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/16/01.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248918
The following person(s) are doing business as: One Production, Girl Party, Babe, Leather ~N~ Lace. 119 1/2 Park Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Susan A. McKenna. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/17/01.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.248941
The following person(s) are doing business as: Intelliactive Research. 10 Lupine Avenue #13, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lawrence Manuel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 240886
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Virtual Assistance Network. Located at: 242 Cayuga Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: May 19, 2000.
This business was conducted by: a General Partnership signed: Lloyd D. Haddad
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.321313
In the Matter of the Application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of Name. The application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of name, havlng been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that George Michael Reyes, Jr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Blythe Bastien Kahill. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.320978
In the Matter of the Application of Kimberly M. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Lane for change of Name. The application of Kimberly M. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Lane for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kimberly M. lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Lane has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Hicks. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.321310
In the Matter of the Application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of Name. The application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikaela Earline Arroyo. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001



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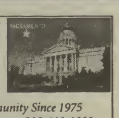
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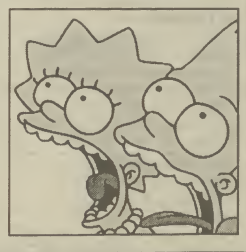
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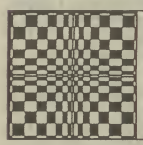
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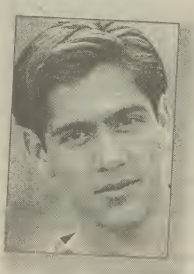
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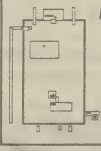
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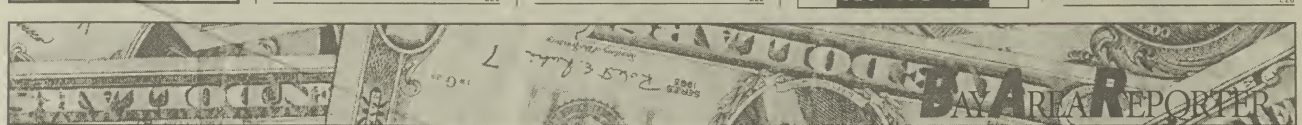
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Kabuki narrators and rare films combine in 'Masterpieces of Japanese Silent Cinema.'
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Celestial music
Laurel Massé sings the sacred and the ecstatic.
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Workers' rites
SF Sex Worker Film & Video Festival at Roxie.
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BAY AREA REPORTER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
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Roberto Friedman

Nude, well-muscled and hard-working

by R. Christian Anderson

San Francisco's Mechanics Monument turns 100 years old

At the intersection of Market, Bush and Battery Streets stands a majestic bronze sculpture which is hard to pass by without gazing up in awe at its magnificent display of muscles and manhood. This masterwork is the Mechanics Monument, the work of the sculptor some have called the Michelangelo of the West, Douglas Tilden. The monument turned 100 years old on May 15, 2001. Behind this heroic work is a fascinating story of two men that could only come from San Francisco.

In 1846, a certain Mr. Adna Hecox and his daughter Catherine joined a group of pioneers heading west. The group was the infamous Donner Party. Fortunately for Hecox and his little girl, they separated from the Donners before their tragic fate in the Sierras. Hecox would arrive at the coast, and not long after became the last mayor in Santa Cruz to serve under Spanish rule. Catherine Hecox would grow into womanhood and marry Dr. W.F. Tilden, a man voted into the California Legislature twice.

They had a son, Douglas Tilden, a gifted child born on May 1, 1860 in Chico, California. Sadly, the

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Dancing stories about the body

Joe Goode Performance Group at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Michael Wade Simpson

In this age of Reality TV, choreographer Joe Goode is reveling in the opposite art, making a world that is poetic, something less or more than real. His world of dance-theater-performance art is glued together with effeminate gestures, his work is agitprop, and he traces his lineage back to the amazing and notorious Cockettes and Angels of Light.

Joe Goode and company got kicked out of their longtime studio space this year, but he doesn't even mention this in an interview, not until he's asked. He's been around for a while on the San Francisco arts scene and shows no signs of losing his edge because of a real estate revolution. He calls the situation sad and notes how San Francisco has changed, from "What are you into?" to "What are your stock options?" But his new piece has absolutely nothing to do with all this. He keeps on doing.

"What is it like to meet someone face to face vs. online?" he asks. "What do

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Vong Phrommala and Marit Brook-Kothlow in Joe Goode Performance Group's *What the Body Knows*

RJ Muna

by Roberto Friedman and Matt Tenay

We sat down at the Pick Me Up Café with SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival Co-Directors **Michael Lumpkin** & **Jennifer Morris** to get psyched up about the 25th Festival, coming right up on June 14-24. This year there are all kinds of reasons to get carried away, starting with dual screenings on opening night, of both (*Desperately Seeking*) **Susan Seidelman**'s ***Gaudi Afternoon*** (based on **Barbara Wilson**'s mystery novel) at the Castro Theatre, and the first 3 episodes of *Metrosexuality*, the new queer TV series from England's Channel Four written by **Rikki** (*Stonewall*) **Beadle-Blair**, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater.

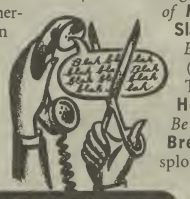
The CFA Theater and the Herbst Theatre are two new venues for the Film Fest, which also keeps its old homes at the Castro, the Victoria and the Roxie. This year, the perennial Festival problem of sell-outs at the popular programs should get some relief, as there's 22% more audience capacity in its largest-ever program of 350 queer films and videos.

Expected guests will bring plenty of glamour both old-school (**Sonia Braga**, for the



Sonia Braga in 1985's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

Herbst screening of **Hector Babenco**'s 1985 *Kiss of the Spider Woman*) and new-school (**John Cameron Mitchell**, for the Castro screening of his *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*). Guests still unconfirmed at presstime include movie stars **Lili Taylor** & **Kelly McGillis** — the latter plays a kinky English professor who's a prime suspect for murder in *The Monkey's Mask*. Aussie actress **Susie Porter** plays her love interest, a private dick, and the word is we'll see *all* of La McGillis.



Out There

Also coming: "all-American Jewish lesbian folksinger" **Phranc**, whose second career as a Tupperware Lady is explored in *Lifetime Guaranteed: Phranc's Adventures in Plastic*. Phranc says she's the only person at Tupperware conventions sporting a flattop and a tie. We're promised a Tupperware Party after the Herbst screening, so notify friends heavily into rubber goods.

Immortal filmmaker **John Waters** will be here for the sneak preview of SF filmies **David Weissman** & **Bill Weber**'s long-awaited *The Cockettes* at the Castro. The doc on the legendary SF troupe is said to be "nearly complete." SF history also figures in *Crimes Against Nature*, which captures a 1977 performance by the **Gay Men's Theatre Collective**; and in a free screening of **Marc Huestis**' *25 - A Brief History of the Festival*. Local filmmakers are well-represented — catch *Hope Along the Wind: The Story of* **Harry Hay** (**Eric Slade** & **Jack Walsh**); *By Hook or By Crook* (**Harry Dodge** & Tribe 8's **Silas Howard**); *I'd Rather Be Gone* (**Maria Breaux**); and "dyke-sploitation" sexcapade *Sugar High Glitter City*, from **Shar Rednour** & **Jackie Strano**.

Tickets go on sale to Frameline members on Friday, May 25, and to the general public on June 1. The ticket office is at 557 Castro St., site of the old Headlines store, whose sign has been cleverly changed to read Frameline. This year for the first time, there will also be on-line ticketing, at www.frameline.org.

Yep, seems like ye olde Lesbian & Gay Film Fest has gone all out for its silver anniversary. In addition to all the films, the fest conference *Persistent Vision* will present four days of panels, workshops and keynotes on queer media. "Queer cinema has its roots in experimentalism, activism and documentary work," Lumpkin said. "We decided against the route of just showing old movies you can rent at the video store!"



R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe

Rapid gay movement

Now it's official: R.E.M. frontman **Michael Stipe** came out to *Time* last week, which is both big news and, well, no news at all. With his band's new album *Reveal* out from Warner Bros., Stipe told *Time* he's more comfortable discussing his sexuality these days. "I was being made to be a coward about it, rather than someone who felt like it really was a very private thing," he said. Stipe self-identifies as a queer artist, which those who saw him swan around SF queer hotspots will have no trouble believing. Now that he has the love of a good man, maybe Stipe will look for that other essential wellspring: the love of a good drummer.

Tower babbles

Over a very dry Beefeaters martini at Stars the other evening, Out There started having flashbacks to that disruptive **Jeremiah Tower** interview in the *New York Times* last month. You may remember the former chef-owner of Stars in different days: a flamboyant *bon vivant* fairly well in the closet. To the *Times* he complained he got bad press in SF because he was openly gay.

Well, that's a funny as in the Sunday funnies: colorful, comical, and hard to believe. To food columnist **Grace Ann Walden** in the *Chronicle*, openly gay former SF chef **Stefan Reilly** commented, "If I had a closet as deep as the one Jeremiah was in, I wouldn't have any storage problems."

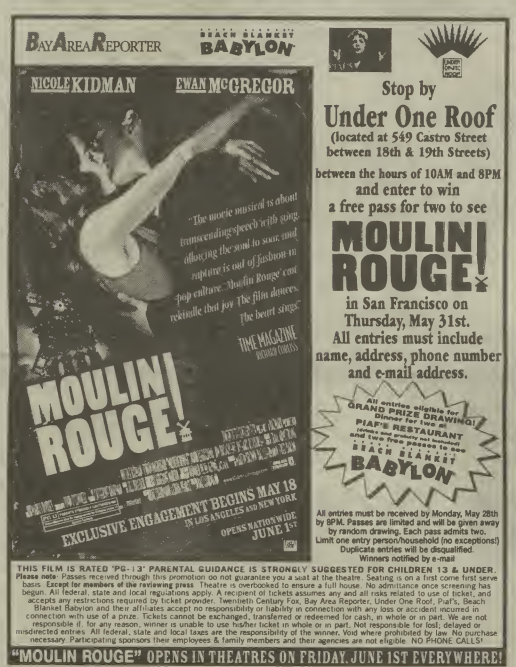
Testy Tower went on to take a kitchen poke at Chez Panisse's **Alice Waters**, then assured the *Times* of his personal wealth by pointing to the fact that he recently stayed at the **George V** hotel in Paris, an establishment with *very high* room rates. Oooooo. The question is, do they administer baby vegetables to him anally with their pinkies up or down?

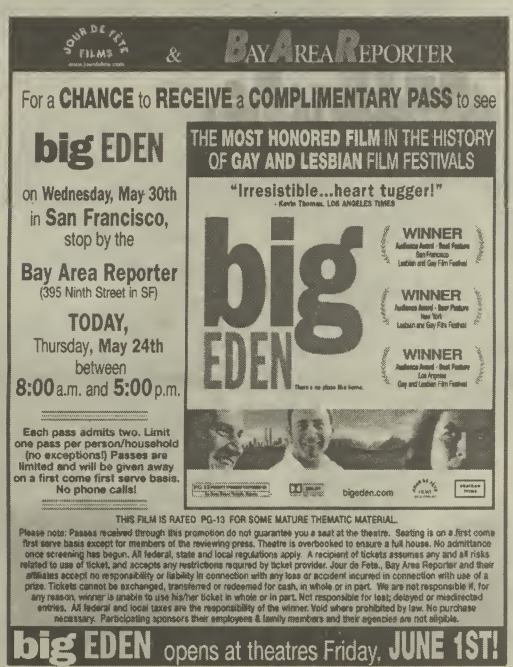
Pot shots

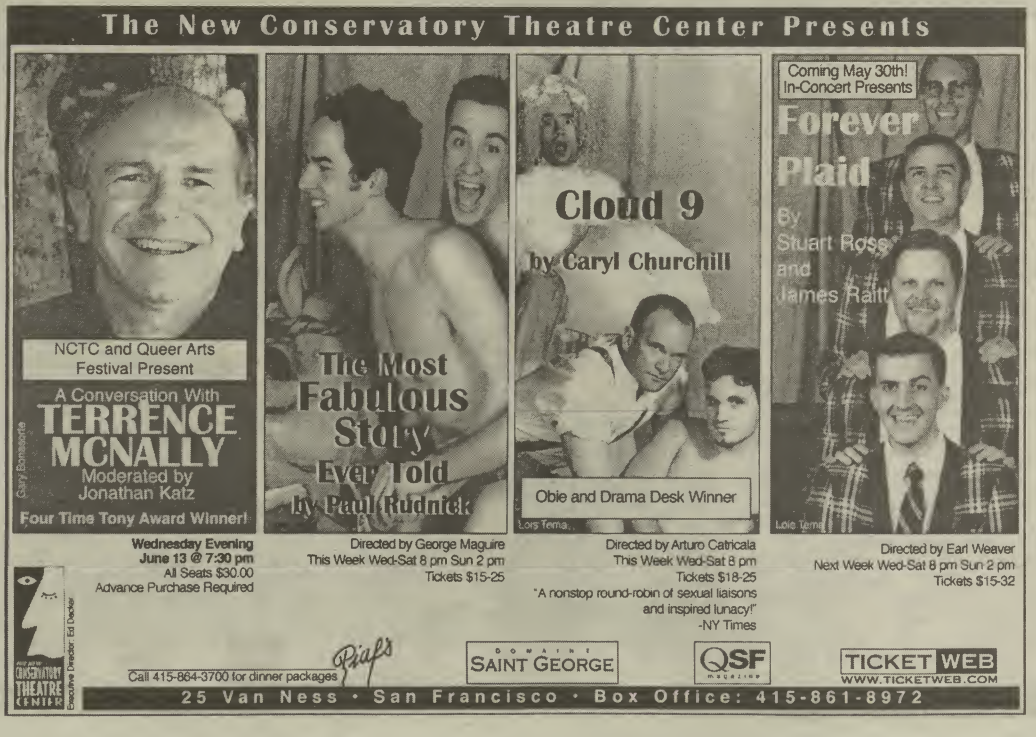
No less than three collections of immortal poet **Allen Ginsberg**'s interviews, essays and poetry have been published by one press (HarperCollins) this spring, and the thrill for old Ginsberg fans is in rediscovering just how timely his observations and insights still are, four years after his *un*timely death in 1997.

For example, as a tonic to last week's unanimous Supreme Court decision which ruled that a federal law classifying marijuana as illegal has no exception for ill patients (backwards to the future!), consider the opening to Ginsberg's essay on pot, written in

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Call-girl dramas and rent-boy operas

2nd SF Sex Worker Film Fest at the Roxie

by David Lamble

The San Francisco Sex Worker Film & Video Festival, playing Friday and Saturday, May 25-26 at the Roxie Cinema, contains three really fine features that shouldn't be overlooked in the plethora of special-interest videos.

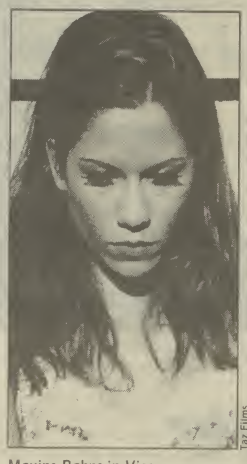
Czech director Wiktor Grodecki produces the latest of his horror/romances on the fate of Prague rent boys. *Mandragora* is a dark fable of crime and punishment, about what happens when the country mouse comes to the city, and that city happens to be the hometown of Franz Kafka.

Author John Updike once described Kafka as epitomizing that which both fascinates and frightens us about the modern era: "a sensation of anxiety and shame whose center cannot be located and therefore cannot be placated; ... a sensitivity acute beyond usefulness, as if the nervous system, flayed of its old hide of social usage and religious belief, must record every touch as pain." Marek (Mirek Caslavka) is a 15-year-old schoolboy who will fail to appreciate the irony that his life has become Kafkaesque. For Marek, touch means his oafish father's fist. Early in the film, Marek dreams of being slapped by his dad. He awakes to the sensation of being poked in the ass by a squirrelly little man torn from the pages of a Graham Greene novel, where he would probably be selling tainted drugs to war orphans. Grodecki's camera and cast (many fresh from the streets) paint a Dickensian portrait of rural adolescents trying to lift themselves up by their own jockstraps.

Grodecki's boy-hustler trilogy (two documentaries preceded this, his first fiction film, sad tales of boys lied to by train station Fagins and exploited by pomo filmmakers) revels in the depressive side of the Central European character. Prague in his hands comes off like the Island of Lost Boys in *Pinocchio*. Like Fassbinder, Grodecki leavens his film with trenchant humor. Marek's fate is sealed when his Rasputin-like pimp-to-be spots the price tag clinging from the boy's recently stolen jacket. Grodecki notes how a good pimp always lights the cigarette of the latest "little rabbit" to fall into his trap. The world of Prague barboys is divided like the sports world into competing teams with their respective team colors, stars, and even free agents. Just as Carmela Soprano is ashamed that her upper-class suburban life is paid for by the much-abused girl strippers at Tony's Bada Bing club, Marek and his hustler buddy David can't take their boytoy riches home to show the folks. Grodecki has created a rent-boy opera of anxiety and shame, lubricated by the music of Mozart and the soul of Prague's all-time #1 self-hating boy. (5/26, 5:30 p.m.)

Private giving

Anxiety and shame are also deftly mixed in Erika Shershun's impressive first feature, *Nightfall*. Alicia (Jennifer West Savage) is a classy call girl whose tony clients



Tax Films

Maxine Bahns in *Vice*

aren't always on their best behavior. In the credits to their music videos, queer band Pansy Division claims to be supported by the National Endowment for Butt Fucking (NEBF), a joke whose truth is one of *Nightfall*'s prickly tenets: that the sex industry is both kinder and crueler to starving artists than any government agency or nonprofit foundation.

Shershun shrewdly constructs the arc of Alicia's story in a series of cab rides. Like the working-girl heroines of *Klute* and *Leaving Las Vegas*, Alicia will find the one thing she didn't think she wanted, a boyfriend. Like many good stories, *Nightfall* trips along the edge of being a little too facile, but manages to hold its footing and our interest in the not-so-cute meet of Alicia and cabbie/singer Justin (Andrew Ableson). As it happens, the British-born Ableson has specialized in playing gay homewreckers in such ensemble sex comedies as *Boyfriends* and *Gypsy Boys*. Oddly, Ableson's silky androgyny gives him more credibility as a very hetero guyfriend. Looking just as good as Alicia does in a tanktop, and with a fussy preference for hair extensions, Justin plays against all our clichés about the good-looking god come to save the whore.

Shershun mixes her drama with just enough agitprop about working girls taking charge of their lives to make a timely statement without letting Alicia becoming a character in the service of radical politics. Another plus is *Nightfall*'s glimpse of San Francisco's indie music scene as Ableson displays a talent for light rock ballads. (5/26, 10 p.m.)

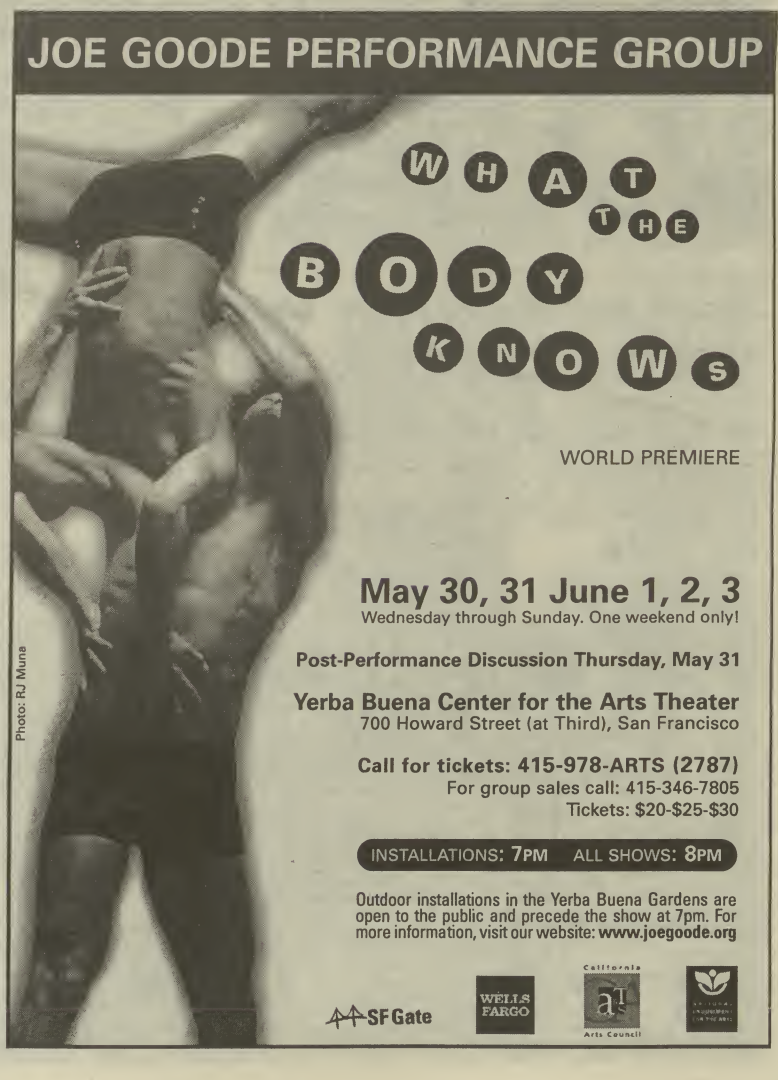
Lewd & lascivious

A Canadian friend of mine once claimed that Houston, Texas was his favorite town to play in. Phil loved getting off in one of the Bayou City's many sex arcades (usually located in converted 7-11s) attractively located cheek-to-jowl next door to the neighborhood Baptist church. It is precisely this in-your-face brazenness that filmmaker John Woodward hilariously captures in *Vice*, a courtroom drama drawn from the transcript of a memorable Houston sex-crimes trial. Playing like *Court TV* adapted for The Comedy Channel, *Vice* tells the blow-by-blow account of a young exotic dancer's trial for allegedly engaging in lewd and lascivious contact with members of the Houston Police Vice Squad. The vice cops (with believe-it-or-not names like R.C. Tubb) come across as nasty rubes whose bumpkin officiousness masks a real hatred for sex workers. If it weren't so funny, *Vice*'s pairing of a vengeful black lady prosecutor against a collegiate-appearing stripper who sends her money home to construct a wheelchair ramp for her crippled momma, would be thrown out of court for violating dramatic rules of plausibility. But we'll give anyone a pass if they make us laugh, and then think about what was so funny. (5/26, 8 p.m.)

The SF Sex Worker Film & Video Fest is fleshed out with many small docu gems involving women behind bars and a spoofy vampire take on tranny sex. The Fest wraps Sunday afternoon with a panel discussion on Sex Worker Representation (2 p.m. at New College, 777 Valencia St.) Panelists include Festival Director and legendary sex-worker advocate Scarlot Harlot, as well as film veteran Annie Sprinkle. ▼

Info at (415) 751-1659

















Charlotte Rampling and Jacques Nolot in François Ozon's *Under the Sand*

Winstar Cinema

Ozon layer

Charlotte Rampling is 'Under the Sand'

by Gary Morris

François Ozon's latest film will come as a bit of a shock to seasoned Ozon watchers, if indeed there are such people for a 34-year-old director who's made only a handful of films. Ozon made a splash in his first few films, seemingly intentionally, to provoke audiences with outré and disturbing images. In *Sitcom* (1999), a satirical study of the comic terrors of bourgeois life, a family's darker impulses are unleashed by a pet rat. *Criminal Lovers* (1999) transforms *Hansel and Gretel* into a murder 'n' sex slacker melodrama. *Water Drops on Burning Rocks* (1999), a spare, dire study in queer sexual politics, linked Ozon to an earlier and perhaps more terrible *enfant terrible*, R.W. Fassbinder, whose play was the source of the film. This crazy trajectory takes another odd turn with *Under the Sand* (2000), opening Friday. This is, of all things, a slow, traditional narrative about a woman's breakdown after the disappearance of her husband.

Charlotte Rampling plays Marie Drillon, a fiftyish and still fetching teacher off on her yearly holiday with husband Jean (Bruno Cremer) at a country house near the beach. There's little to indicate anything amiss. The two go about their business quietly, methodically, seemingly so comfortable in their relationship that words — of which there are few in these early scenes — are unnecessary. But Ozon tosses in a few clues that all is not quite right without actually saying so. Jean seems slightly disengaged, moving through his day too quietly. When the two go to the beach, the camera lingers on close-ups of Jean staring at the water while Marie relaxes next to him. She goes to sleep; Jean goes in the water for a swim and vanishes. A panicky Marie engages the police in a search, and they eventually discover his drowned body. But Marie is having none of it. She spends the rest of the film denying his death, hallucinating appearances by him, talking with him, and causing considerable anguish to her friends, who are alarmed at her inability to "get over it."

Who's afraid...

Marie's grim existence of denial and hallucination is nicely reflected in one of the film's recurring motifs, Virginia Woolf. Woolf acts as a sort of spiritual godmother to Marie and to the quietly terrifying world of the film. Marie is teaching Woolf's novel *The Waves* to her class, but stumbles as a quote she's reading suddenly makes her loss real. She recites Woolf's suicide note from memory to a simpatico publisher she's dating. Like Woolf, Marie "hears voices"; and like the novelist, Jean committed suicide by drowning.

Perhaps not surprisingly for a film dominated by the spirit of a writer like Woolf, much of the pacing here is slow to the point of torpor. Still, Ozon occasionally livens things up, justifying his reputation as a filmmaker to watch. One scene that shows his chops is a casually cruel encounter between Marie and Jean's mother, who accuses her of being the cause of Jean's "disappearance" (Marie isn't the only delusional character here). Another is the viewing of Jean's decomposed body, which Marie insists on doing. The combination of the coroner's clinical rendering of her husband's "putrefaction" and Marie's dizzied expression as she observes the body from the supposed safety of a mask bring the sense of a disordered, lethally unpredictable world to the fore.

Ozon based this film on a personal experience at a beach when he was a child. "Every day, we would meet a Dutch couple in their sixties. One day, the man went for a swim and never came back. It was a shock for me and my family." This traumatic event, really an anecdote, is stretched a bit thin over the course of *Under the Sand*'s 95-minute running time. Lacking dramatic punch, the film depends mostly on Rampling's rendering of the inner torment of a woman who has depended entirely on her husband for a sense of her existence. This actress, who's used to baring her soul (in *The Night Porter*, for example), is an ideal choice here, the best that Ozon could hope for, in keeping the audience interested by gesture, look, and phrase in a rather anemic story. Rampling brings to life the chaos that underlies Marie's frozen, nervous smile as she sinks deeper into her fantasy that her husband's not dead. She has the quietly crazed look of an automaton. Even making love to the new man in her life, the publisher Vincent (Jacques Nolot), does little to distract her. (Indeed, she seems slightly unhinged at her own "infidelity.") While the film's slow pace and lack of dramatic incident make it soporific in spots, Rampling makes it worth watching. ▼

***Under the Sand* opens Friday at the Embarcadero Center Cinemas.**

Sing out, boys

The Marx Brothers spend 'A Night at the Opera' at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

A conservative wag once wrote that Karl was the fifth Marx Brother, but in truth that distinction belongs to surrealist master Salvador Dali. The world of Groucho, Harpo, Chico, and, initially, Zeppo Marx is chaotic, but follows its own inner logic, like Gracie Allen's. It brooks no pretentiousness. Groucho, in particular, took delight in deflating pomposity whenever he encountered it. In 1935's *A Night at the Opera*, he found a perfect target for his poisonous barbs. It plays the Castro Theatre on Sunday, May 27, as part of the week-long series *Verdi Goes to the Movies*.

Even those of us who love opera must concede that it's ripe for satire, since it requires a remarkable suspension of disbelief. When it's at its best, the experience is overwhelming. But like any art form, it has bad nights and bad works. A sense of humor helps, especially when considering the plots of some of opera's perennial favorites. Despite Verdi's sublime score, the story and actions in *Il Trovatore* do not withstand close scrutiny. As Pauline Kael wrote, if you ever took this particular opera seriously, you aren't likely to again after the Marx Brothers lampooned it in this film.

A Night at the Opera has Groucho playing Otis P. Driftwood, who has been hired by Mrs. Claypoole (the eternally serene and oblivious Margaret Dumont) to pave her way into High Society. The very premise of the film brings a smile — it's almost as mad as casting Shelley Winters as a Vassar Dean. Mrs. Claypoole has agreed to donate $200,000 (many millions in today's money) to the Opera, which its director, the sputtering Herman Gottlieb, will use to sign a great tenor, Lossparu (Walter King) to sing for the company.

Lossparu is attracted to the soprano Rosa (Kitty Carlisle, before she married Moss Hart and became a staple of television game shows in the '50s and '60s), but she is smitten with another tenor, Ricardo (Alan Jones). The plot is beyond comprehension and impossible to summarize. But much of the action takes place onboard an ocean liner, as well as on the operatic stage. The film includes one of the Marx Brothers' most famous scenes — crowding an incredible number of people into one cabin. At one point, Harpo dons different costumes, including one for Carmen, to escape Lossparu's beatings. Others making appearances are three Russian spies who resemble the Smith Brothers of cough-drop fame.

Hello Kitty

Carlisle does her own unsteady singing, as does Jones, who is better. So does Groucho, skewing famous arias along the way. The climax of the madness features Lossparu singing *I Quella Pira* while chaos surrounds him. Fortunately, Mrs. Claypoole, who will do anything for Groucho, is on hand to bail the brothers out of jail.

A Night at the Opera was the Marx Brothers' first feature at MGM. Legendary producer Irving Thalberg signed them after the commercial failure of the critically acclaimed *Duck Soup* (1933) at Paramount, where they had filmed their stage successes, *Coconuts* (1929) and *Animal Crackers* (1930), before making movies designed specifically for the medium: *Monkey Business* (1931) and *Horse Feathers* (1932). The box-office success of *Opera* justified Thalberg's belief in them, and they followed with *A Day at the Races* (1937), which was also a smash.

Harpo Marx dons different costumes, including one for Carmen, to escape beatings.

They went to RKO to order *Room Service* (1938), which featured a young Lucille Ball and an even younger Ann Miller, before returning to Metro, where they were unhappy in the wake of Thalberg's untimely death. Their next two, *At the Circus* (1939) and *Go West* (1940), were poor. They were ready to break up the act, but agreed to first run *The Big Store* (1941), which, while better than their two previous efforts, was still not as inspired as their best, earlier films.

After that, they worked independently, Groucho making occasional forays into movies, without success. (Even his teaming with Carmen Miranda in 1946's *Copacabana* disappoints.) He enjoyed renewed popularity and acclaim on television in the '50s with his quiz show, *You Bet Your Life*. Harpo and Chico worked less, although the former had a memorable guest appearance on *I Love Lucy*. The fourth brother, Zeppo, quit performing early in the '30s to become a successful Hollywood agent. ▼



Groucho Marx at the Ice Capades, 1953

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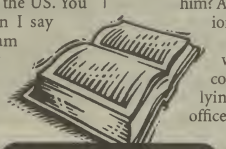


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BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE BRT

Gifts from across the seas

by Deborah Peifer



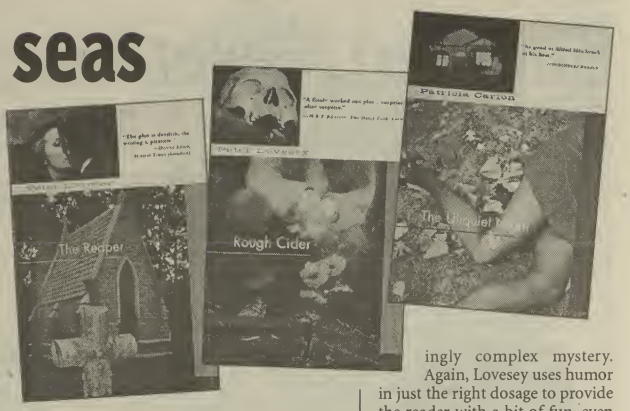
OK, mystery fans: it's time to get out the good stationery and the best pen to write a thank you note to Soho Press for publishing British writers previously unavailable in the US. You may believe it when I say we're getting the cream of an extraordinary crop.

Peter Lovesey began writing mysteries in 1970, and received the British Crime Writers Association Silver and Gold Daggers for his work. In 2000, he received the CWA/Cartier Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement. No slouch in the mystery line is Peter Lovesey, and now we have two of his mysteries— and aren't we the lucky ones.

The Reaper ($23) is the blackest of black comedy, the simple story of an Anglican priest who is great at every aspect of his job: visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, preaching the inspirational sermon. If the Reverend Otis Joy has a failing, it's the taste for the high life that his unhappy gift for embezzlement supports. When his bishop arrives unannounced with ocular proof of his crimes, what can Otis do but kill him? After all, his parishioners need him.

What to do with the bishop's corpse, though, still lying in the rector's office? "After a wedding rehearsal in the church — but before rigor mortis set in — Joy returned to the rectory, his pastoral duties over for the day. He felt as shaky as anyone does with a dead bishop waiting for disposal, but he was in control. He trusted himself not to panic. In fact, he was experiencing quite a surge of adrenaline at the challenge of the things to be done. A clergyman's life is more structured than lay people ever appreciate, and there is quiet satisfaction at coping with whatever life throws at you and still conducting services on time." You just have to admire the man for his dedication to his pastoral duties.

Lovesey sweetens his macabre tale with dry humor that makes the events even more chilling. His characters are rich and detailed, the events suitably dark. *The Reaper* is a death-filled romp, with plot twists a-plenty and a remarkably satisfying ending.



"When I was nine, I fell in love with a girl of 20 named Barbara, who killed herself." Thus begins *Rough Cider* ($13), the tale of past murders, and a child who never knew her father, but refuses to believe that he was guilty of a despicable murder. Theo was a young boy when he witnessed a brutal rape, and reported it. When the rapist ends up dead, the obvious suspect is the American GI (the murder took place during World War II) who was in love with the rape victim. Convicted and hanged, Duke's story might have ended there, had his daughter not grown up convinced of his innocence. She finds Theo, a principal witness at the trial 20 years earlier, and convinces him to help her prove Duke's innocence. Of course, if Duke is innocent, there's a murderer somewhere who got away with the crime and is unlikely to wait quietly to be discovered.

Theo and Alice are a credible pair of stunningly inept amateurs who muddle through an increasingly complex mystery. Again, Lovesey uses humor in just the right dosage to provide the reader with a bit of fun, even as things become more and more harrowing. *Rough Cider* is a satisfying mystery with extras.

Soho publishes another writer previously unavailable in the US, the Australian mystery writer Patricia Carlson. The latest offering, originally published in 1965, is *The Unquiet Night* ($22), a tale so creepy that I would recommend reading it only during a bright, sunshiny day, with all doors bolted and windows locked, except that I tried that, and it didn't help at all. I was still terrified.

Aunt Rachel takes her nine-year-old niece, Ann, for a picnic near a quiet lake, and notices an odd man, staring fixedly at them. She and Ann don't know that Mart has just dumped the body of a woman that he strangled in the lake. He knows they didn't see the dumping or the murder but is convinced that, when the body is discovered, these two will be able to place him at the lake, and to describe him to the police. Mart's a little slow, so that by the time he's worked out what a danger they are to him, Rachel and Ann are gone. Mart doesn't know their names, but surely in a small town he can discover their identities and eliminate the danger.

The Unquiet Night is a tale of ever-increasing horror as Mart terrorizes women and children throughout the town while he searches for his prey. Carlson juggles the seemingly unrelated but actually intersecting subplots with a dexterity that is both completely unobtrusive and technically brilliant. I particularly liked the character of Rachel, a no-nonsense woman who... well, I can't tell you why because that would give too much away.

Just remember to keep all the lights on while reading *The Unquiet Night*, and you just may be able to sleep again, someday, if only that odd creaking noise down the hall would stop.

Kids, kids, kids

Most picture books are written for children only, but the rare and pleasing exception speaks to the young and the less young (somehow I just didn't want to say old) with equal grace. *Cats, Cats, Cats!*, a enchanting new book by Lesléa Newman (Simon & Schuster, $16), is such a book, one that cat-lovers of all ages will enjoy. If you've ever wondered why cats sleep all day, Newman has the answer. It's because they party all night. Erika Oller's watercolor illustrations are witty and wonderful, and serve Newman's poetry well. You just don't want to pass up a chance to see "Cats in the drawing room, purling and knitting." *Cats, Cats, Cats!* is a delight. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.



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Out There

◀ page 30

San Francisco in 1965: "How much to be revealed about marijuana especially in this time and nation for the *general* public! for the actual experience of the smoked herb has been completely clouded by a fog of dirty language by the diminishing crowd of fakers who have not had the experience and yet insist on being centers of propaganda about the experience." (from *Deliberate Prose, Selected Essays 1952-1995*)



William S. Burroughs

Allen Ginsberg in 1953

Or take Ginsberg's observation as words to remember as **Reagan**'s "Star Wars" fantasy becomes **Bush II**'s billion-dollar boondoggle: "Most of our national consciousness is invested in an 80-billion-dollar 'defense' budget still preoccupied with the completely hallucinatory and paranoid problem of attack from the outside." (from 1969 *Playboy* interview, in *Spontaneous Mind, Selected Interviews 1958-1996*)

Ginsberg was nothing if not prescient, of course. He was out and proud as a gay man more than a decade before Stonewall; he foresaw global warming and the military-industrial complex's denial of it; he and his fellow Beats brought transcendental meditation and Eastern mystic philosophies into American popular culture long before the **Beatles**.

Or forego AG as public oracle and icon-statesman, and consider only his poetry, that immortal part of him. "Kissass is the Part of Peace/ America will have to Kissass Mother Earth/ Whites have to Kissass Blacks, for Peace & Pleasure,/ Only Pathway to Peace, Kissass" ("Kiss Ass," 1968, from *Selected Poems, 1947-1995*)

Whitman sampler

Of the new Ginsberg books, perhaps the volume of interviews is the biggest hoot, since its interlocutors are not limited to fans or disciples. Allen more than holds his own against hostile interrogations from the right-wing media, including a session with pompous old bat **William F. Buckley, Jr.** and with **John Lofton**, a born-again zealot from the **Rev. Moon**-era *Washington Times* who accuses AG of sin, and asks questions like, "Why do you persist in imputing your own rottenness to other people?"

At one point Lofton cites a poem by **Walt Whitman**, whom he doesn't much care for: "One that says something like, 'So, I made mistakes. I contradict myself. So what? I contain all things.' This is absurd. Talk about arrogance."

"Dig this," says Ginsberg.

"I'm digging it," says Lofton.

AG: "He says, 'Do I contradict myself?/ Very well. I contradict myself./ (I am large. I contain multitudes.)' Do you know what he meant by that?"

JL: "Probably nothing good. And I doubt if he knew what he meant."

AG: "Yeah, he did. I know what he meant."

JL: "How do you know what he meant?"

AG: (laughs) "Because I am large. I contain multitudes." ▼

A great depression

by Jim Piechota

The Rose City by David Ebershoff; Viking Press, $23.95

Emotional fiction can certainly hit home sometimes. For every trampled heart and vaporized relationship, there is a story to be read that is sure to coddle the walking wounded for another long night. So in reading David (*The Danish Girl*) Ebershoff's new collection of stories, I felt vindicated. This is one of those books whose situations float around in your personal space long after you read them.

Set in two beautiful, distinctly atmospheric cities, Boston and Pasadena, these seven tales feature gay men and boys who are suspended in a flux state of personal development, writhing for something beyond their everyday limitations. The men aren't sure where to go next or are painfully aware that they've gone too far, and the boys seem to know the right direction to head in, but their feet won't budge.

Boston's conventional South End plays host to the weighty opening story "Chuck Paa," in which Chuck has made a living as a home-health aide for a constant turnover of AIDS patients. His insecurity about whether "the dying industry" is really right for him dominates the narrative, but the gathering clouds of yet another patient casualty are what motivate him to explore other options.

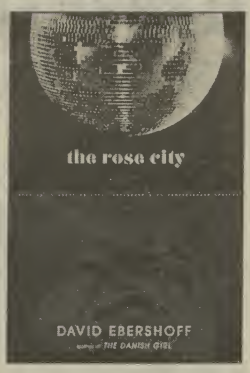
In "The Dress," a young, bored 10-year-old boy with effeminate tendencies finds himself alone in a big house with only his sister's dresses for company. This one's easy — except for the particularly heartbreaking father-and-son revelation on the final pages, which throws some mighty cold water on all the fun.

In several of the boys' stories, at least, there are moments of savory locker room bliss, wafting a pungent mix of embarrassment and breathless affirmation at the unsuspecting reader. As with Jon, the overweight teenager in "Regime" who stares longingly at his disrobing high school teammates. His solution is to go on a crash diet, risking his health for attention and maybe even love.

Steep slope

Conversely, Regina Glume, the prostitute-on-the-run who beguiles (and disillusions) the young, drunk, and pretty Billy in "The Charm Bracelet," has a few piercing words about the wiles of the male species. "How they treat you when you meet them is the best you'll get. It's all downhill from there," Regina imparts. "The trick is to figure out when the slope gets really steep on you. Those are the ones to watch out for, the ones who break your heart on the first night." Ouch.

In "Living Together," one of the highlights of the collection, two strangers, Alex and Guy, hook up to become roommates, and the obvious spark of romantic interest seems to burn right up off the page. In this and several other stories, Ebershoff provides meticulous, eye-candied physical descriptions of minute details that only a discerning eye could appreciate. The "bulk and shift" of a man's thigh, or the "hair on Guy's knees, hair like fur, already sun-bleached from the season's first days at the beach" all provide fodder for some creative visual imagery for men who love men.



In *The Rose City*, David Ebershoff's fictions map the angst-ridden dreams of his characters with an experienced, compassionate eye, and the result becomes as tragic, beautiful, and rose-red as life itself. ▼

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Gayer than all creation

'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told'

by Richard Dodds

The Garden of Eden is "fabulous," says Adam as he surveys his surroundings, except "I would have put the lake over there." It's only six days into creation, and the first gay man is already redecorating in Genesis according to Paul.

In *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, Paul Rudnick has taken on weighty theological matters in ways that are both hilarious and surprisingly thoughtful. The New Conservatory Theatre Center is presenting the West Coast premiere of the newest play by the author of *Jeffrey* in a production that, despite a rudimentary design, manages to gleefully connect with the wit and wisdom of Rudnick.

Rudnick has crafted the two acts of *Fabulous* as stylistically distinct entities that still cleverly complement one another. In the first act, Adam and Steve, the first gay couple, meet up with Jane and Mabel, their lesbian counterparts, as they muddle their way through various Old Testament adventures. The second act, set in Adam and Steve's contemporary Manhattan apartment at Christmastime, has a more realistic basis as it explores the characters' quests for spiritual answers in a chaotic and sometimes cruel world.

Through both acts, the fussily tasteful Adam is the sensitive one always looking for a higher meaning to life, while the uncomplicated gym-buffed Steve remains skeptical of manmade religious constructs. To his credit, Rudnick does not dismiss the yearning for spiritual solace, even if he doesn't finally buy into any feel-good philosophy that can salve suffering or easily explain life's meanings.

Rudnick is a swashbuckling playwright, giving us in the first act among other things a cocktail party with horny animals aboard the Ark and Egyptian slaves who sing show tunes, and in the second a Christmas party with a chipper Mormon, a cable-access lesbian rabbi in a wheelchair, and a bitchy queen Santa. There's so much going on that you can almost ignore that the play is too long by 15 or 20 minutes.

Though the technical demands of the first act outstrip NCTC's abilities, and Rob Vogt's thrift-store apartment set for the second act would shame the Adam who was redesigning Eden, the play itself boldly emerges in director George Maguire's production, which adeptly follows its many moods and styles.

The appealing cast is also equipped for the journey. As Adam, Joey Rich makes up for in bright-eyed passion what he lacks in technique. Zach Hummel gives Steve a hunky simplicity that still mines both humor and pathos. Jana Barber is a delight as the tough-as-nails Jane, a performance that Maria Biber-Ferro nicely complements as the willowy Mabel.

Patrick Michael Dukeman gets the prize for the most fabulously outrageous performance in the first act as a big-sissy pharaoh, and in the second as a sharp-tongued queen. Lisa Mallette and Natalie Adona, part of a tribe of heterosexuals in the first act, shine in the second as, respectively, the straight-talking lesbian rabbi and the giddily tolerant Mormon. Shannon Veon Kase plays a God-like stage manager, and Sean Batson and John Dravinski complete the cast.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told is certainly one of the most amusing plays ever staged at NCTC. This irreverent take on religion is seriously funny stuff. ▼



Lois Tema

John Dravinski and Patrick Dukeman in *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*

***The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through July 14. Tickets are $15-$25. Call 861-8972.**



Beachhouse follies

'Betty's Summer Vacation'

by Richard Dodds

The characters in Christopher Durang's *Betty's Summer Vacation* may be lunatics, but they are not without compassion. When one of a group sharing a beachhouse slices off the penis of a homeless flasher, the others rush to put the severed member on ice so it might be surgically reattached. Unfortunately, their good intentions become moot when the victim also loses his head.

In his latest comedy, Durang outrageously eschews good taste in ways that trump what he has offered before. But, unlike in some of his other plays, here there is a clear method behind his madness. The group-think fickleness of this thing we call public opinion is the target of Durang's savage absurdism.

The Actors Theatre of San Francisco, an offshoot of Jean Shelton Actors Lab, is offering the West Coast premiere of *Betty's Summer Vacation* in a production comfortably in tune with the material. If the performances generally lack high polish, the actors deliver enough of the goods to spark the play's zany energies in director Christian Phillips' solid production.

The play starts off as a variation on the vacation-from-hell motif, as the prim Betty (Rachel Klyce) and her motor-mouth friend Trudy (Jennifer Welch) arrive at their summer rental and discover that their housemates include a rapaciously horny lothario (Tim Waddell) and a disturbingly withdrawn young man (Drew McAuliffe) carrying a hatbox that most probably does not contain a hat. The group is completed with the arrival of the landlady (Liz Ryan), a libidinous widow who brings home a sexually predatory derelict (Charles Johnson) to satisfy her needs.

But as these disparate personalities begin to collide, Durang's true agenda is revealed. What sounds curiously like a sitcom laugh-track begins emitting from the ceiling — disturbing enough, but then the laughter turns into a demanding audience (Arthur Calandrelli, Mimi Alain and Andrew Todhunter) that requires constant and increasingly profane entertainment to keep it sated. These unseen figures can become mushily sentimental at the drop of a hat before springing back to an angry Jerry Springer mentality.

In a perverse way, Durang has targeted both himself and his own audiences as part of his damning satire, upping the shock quotient to keep the attention of an increasingly jaded public. But the laughter Durang generates winds up providing the antidote for his own venom. ▼



Alice G. Patterson

Rachel Klyce as Betty

***Betty's Summer Vacation* will run at the Actors Theatre of San Francisco through July 14. Tickets are $25. Call 296-9179.**



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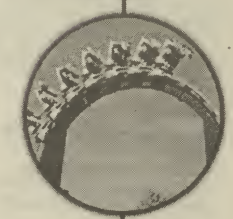
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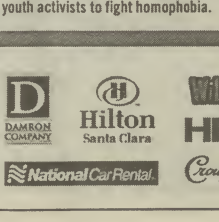
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Stripped bare

Melissa Ferrick's 'Valentine Heartache'

by Joyce Luck

In Melissa Ferrick's world, sex is profound, break-ups suck, and people need to get real. This singer-songwriter is a talent, no question about it. In her latest offering, *Valentine Heartache*, the music reflects the emotion; unflinching lyrics tell the story. Unfortunately, despite the album's many strong moments, the middle of the compilation sags a bit in an angst-ridden sameness.

Ferrick's first non-live indie effort on her own label, Right On Records, *Valentine Heartache* is still sure to please the fans of this emerging lesbian icon — and garner her some new ones. It contains cuts Ferrick has been performing over the last year: I recognized some of them from her gigs here at the Last Day Saloon, songs such as "Welcome to My Life," which kicks off the album, "One Night Stand," "I Still Love You," and "Will You Be the One." The last track is an energetic, inspired cover of Patty Griffin's "Moses." These tried-and-true songs all float to the top after repeated listenings, although the frenetic "One Night Stand" might work a little better with electric guitars.

The standout track on the album is "Crack the Mirror," about the panic disorder Ferrick recently owned up to having. The song captures a feeling of tremendous pressure closing in, a claustrophobic swimming underwater sensation in which, Ferrick sings, her "soul can't breathe." "Last year I was ready to check myself into a hospital at 106 lbs.," Ferrick told me recently. "Unable to eat, weak and becoming agoraphobic, I was scared and [was] talked into getting help."

Another interesting track is "Email," which seems like a new song, given its reference to South By Southwest (SXSW), where Ferrick was recently showcased. Ferrick also adds horns to the track, which give it a Latin flavoring. The song was actually written shortly after Ferrick submitted her last CD, *Freedom*, to What Are Records? (WAR), the record company then representing her. In "Email," Ferrick's frustration with the suits running the show rings out loud and clear when she belts the lines: "So don't tell me/ No one's listening/ Don't tell me/ That fans don't care/ 'Cause when we're out in the clubs/ Listening to music/ You're in a box/ Answering your e-mail."

"Break Up Song" wears a little thin since the theme of lost loves is already explored in such songs as "One Night Stand" and "I Still Love You." "Sky Above," perhaps the album's loveliest track, tenderly breaks that mold. A follow-up to Freedom's passionate and very sexy "Drive," the song, Ferrick tells me, "is about making love, it's about young love, it's about wanting to feel."

If anything, *Valentine Heartache* may be stripped too bare, the production not layered and polished enough. Ferrick and drummer Brian Winton are the only musicians on the album, Ferrick playing the acoustic guitar, bass, and horns, and providing her own background vocals. Using Winton on drums and percussion definitely ratchets the CD up a notch from *Freedom*, which relied on drum loops. But I did miss Marika Tjelios' bass. Sometimes songs feel fuller, stretched to their limit 'n possibilities, when others add their interpretations to the mix.

Ultimately, it comes down to your opinion. Ferrick has a reason for the bare approach; she tells me, "I think my records now are about me really singing and playing the hell out of the guitar. That's why people come to see me live; that's what they want.

"Would I like to work with symphonies and producers and make half-million-dollar records? I really don't know. Maybe as long as the song doesn't get lost. People keep calling this a bare record, but they can't stop listening to it, either. What does that say?"

That it's a good album, of course. Surely Melissa Ferrick doesn't need the Boston Symphony or a choir backing her. But for some of us, a little more embellishing, layering, and tweaking would add more interest. Still, I'm looking forward to hearing her perform the new songs next month at SF Pride. ▼



Phyllis Christopher

Emerging lesbian icon Melissa Ferrick

Musical landscapes

Margie Adam still has a lot to say

by Deborah Peifer

Margie Adam — *Avalon*
(Pleiades Records)

Singer-songwriter Margie Adam, along with Meg Christian and Cris Williamson, was one of the founding mothers of women's music, the genre that continues to inspire us and celebrate our lives. It's been five years since Adam last released a CD, the instrumental recording *Soon and Again*, and eight years since we've heard her sing on an album (*Another Place*). Her latest release, *Avalon*, was absolutely worth the wait. Adam's voice is strong and sure, her musicianship a delight. Combining three instrumental tracks with eight vocals, *Avalon* is a gift to her fans, and an invitation to any of you who aren't fans yet to get on board.

The problem with the appellation "singer-songwriter" is that it is far too easy to forget the singer part while marveling at the writing. *Avalon* reminds us just how fine a performer Margie Adam is. The album marks the first time that Adam has recorded a song other than her own, and her choice for that milestone is Carole King's "Will You Love Me Tomorrow." I'll confess to never having cared for that song. I always thought it sounded whiny. In Adam's version, however, the singer is ready for a yes or a no. She won't be sorry if the answer is yes, of course, but if the answer is no, she's OK with that, too. This singer is an adult, ready for what the world sends her way, and she gives her listeners credit for being adults, too.

The title song appears twice on the CD: first as a vocal, then, at the close, as an instrumental. "Avalon" is a haunting piece, inviting the listener to find that magical place where anything is possible: "Here is the stubborn flower growing up through stone/ Here is the power within us calling/ Calling us home." I've rarely heard the harp used so effectively, serving to call up a Celtic vision of that mythical place. Yet what is so remarkable about this song, both in terms of its music and lyrics, is that we are encouraged to believe in Avalon's absolute reality.

Adam has a lot to say about relationships, and it is in capturing the heady, early days of passion that her wit shines through. In the delightful "I'll Be Right Over," the singer tries very hard not to sound overeager, and yet that fervor comes through: "Don't worry 'bout calling after midnight/ Don't worry 'bout calling in the early morning hours... If you have a mind to call me/ Well, I'll be right over." My guess is that there are very few of us who haven't been at least one of those two characters, either the caller or the one longing to be called.

"Watch for Me" is a poignant yet life-affirming promise that offers a simple consolation in the face of the loneliness we all experience. "There are things we face in life we have to face alone/ There are journeys we must take, and take them on our own," yet the singer promises that we won't really be alone. "Watch for me day by day/ I'll be the whisper in every silence/ I'll be the laughter in the distance."

Avalon is a stunning album, filled with songs that will become standards. Adam sings with a sureness and power that is astonishing. Her piano solos are breathtaking. The result is a CD that you will treasure. ▼

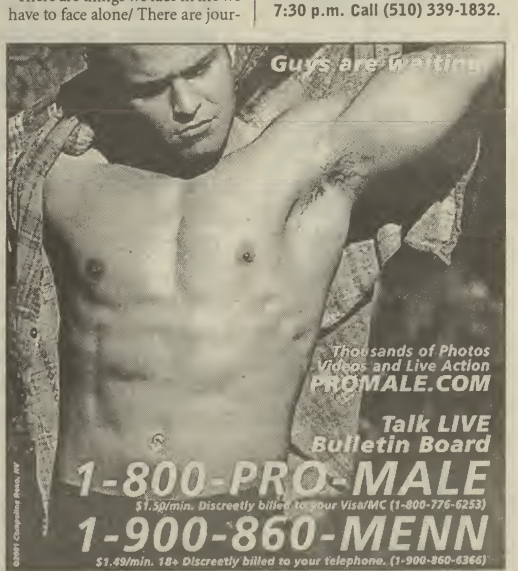


Judy Rolfe

Margie Adam

Margie Adam performs at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. Call (510) 339-1832.





Final grades are in

'The Lavender Tube' rates the TV season

by Victoria A. Brownworth

May is the Roman candle of TV, night after night of can-you-top-this season finales, with tried-and-true cliffhangers geared toward sustaining the viewers' loyalty through long months of summer reruns, followed by the crushing lure of the new fall programs.

The hands-down winner of this season's finales among dramas is NBC's *The West Wing*, which is seamlessly written and acted, smart and witty, fast-paced and rife with splendid repartee. This is the one program that is always excellent and as near to perfect as TV will ever be. It's so good, in fact, that we are surprised it hasn't been canceled. Which gives lie to the tired axiom that viewers don't want intelligent TV.



Martin Sheen should be President

As the best actor in a superb cast, Martin Sheen's President Bartlett makes us wish life could imitate art and we could click our heels three times and send *him* to Washington DC, and Dubya to a set of the White House.

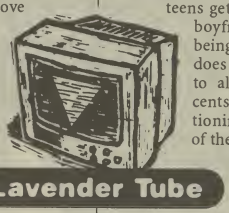
The A+ for comedy goes once again to *Will & Grace*, as funny this season (thanks to truly excellent writing, a stellar cast and fabulous guests) as last. What makes this show so good is perfect comedic timing — the over-the-top performances of Sean Hayes (Jack) and Megan Mullaly (Karen) balanced by "straight men" Will (Eric McCormack) and Grace (Debra Messing). And queerness is in every episode because Will and Jack are, just like *real* queers, always gay.

For those critics who say Jack is a stereotype, we say only this: You need to get out more. Jack is a real, true-to-life queen. In these days of Republican-inspired assimilationist frenzy, Jack may not be politically correct, but he's *very* real (just ask the guy suing the show for stealing his identity.) Very real too, sadly, is closet-case Will.

Soaping up

This season there is actually not just a passing grade but an A for a soap opera: *All My Children*. This is the only soap to have any queer characters in a decade — Kevin Sheffield three years ago, and Bianca Montgomery this season. Eden Reigel's Emmy-nominated Bianca has been a *tour de force*. As the daughter of Pine Valley's most famous resident, Erica Kane, played by soapdom's most famous actress, Susan Lucci, the 16-year-old Bianca has been front-burner since she came out as a lesbian.

AMC has stuck with the story despite boycotts and the disapproval of the religious Right. The producers have never wavered — Bianca isn't going through a phase. Her doomed love affair with Sarah, attraction to Laura, and friendships with street-chick Rain and bad-boy Leo have been dealt with believably and honestly.



Bianca has also been the victim of anti-gay harassment at her high school and rejection by her mother, more touches of realism. Though Reigel didn't win her Emmy last Friday night in a category in which she was the youngest and had very stiff competition from four more established actresses, her nomination proves the strength not only of her performance, but industry support for that performance despite the controversy.

NBC and the WB get As for daring to allow queer characters to have mates, a revolutionary concept in TV Land, where queer characters are generally tokens. NBC's *ER* gave Dr. Carrie Weaver (Laura Innes) a love interest for the first time in six seasons — another woman. Dr. Kim Lagassi (Elizabeth Mitchell) brought Weaver out of the closet in a storyline that ran all season and involved a wide range of queer issues, including sexual harassment, anti-gay sentiment in the medical profession, and the conflict between bisexuality and lesbianism. In the season finale (one of May's best), Weaver finally came out to her superior in an effort to save Lagassi's job. Poignant and powerful — Kim had already ditched Carrie for not being out — the scene typified *ER*'s commitment to consistent and edgy queer storylines.

The WB is known as the network for teen and black audiences, and nearly all their programming fits into one or the other category. But much cutting-edge writing slips into some of those programs. *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* is one of the most deftly written shows on TV. Creator/writer/director Joss Whedon gave Willow (Alyson Hannigan) a girlfriend, Tara (Amber Benson), last season, and this season he made them full-fledged lovers. Last week, the two had their first fight — in which Tara acknowledged she thought Willow, who had previously been with boys, might return to men.

The argument could have been lifted from any college dorm, it was that realistic. The two are believable and sweet as lovers, and Hannigan deserved her own Emmy nomination for her superb performance throughout the season as a young woman navigating the perilous shoals of sexual change.



Kerr Smith has played *Dawson Creek*'s gay resident, Jack, for several seasons. Last year he got a boyfriend who dumped him. This year, he got a new one — and more on-screen kissing, which is so cutting edge for network TV, it's astonishing.

Both these shows deserve kudos for integrating queer characters into established ensemble casts and allowing those characters full range — which means the teens get girlfriends and boyfriends, despite being queer. The WB does a public service to all those adolescents out there questioning the rightness of their sexual choices by not running disclaimers on episodes with queer love-making.

Burning Bush

The season never ends for politics and news — though some of us wish there *were* a hiatus, particularly from news of the current Administration. Where's that demon-hunter Buffy when you really need her? We remain agog as the Bush juggernaut steams through America, slashing and burning everything in sight. We ask, "Is there a Democrat in the House?" but if Dick Gephardt and Tom Daschle remain the best the Dems have to offer, 2004 looks like a reprise of 2000 — without the recount. We had thought (hoped, prayed) the wresting of the election from Gore by the US Supreme Court would cause enough ire to rally the fractured and often fractious Democratic Party, but there has been a resounding lack of response to the Bush Administration's push toward an early Armageddon.

For political commentary, Tim Russert's *Meet the Press* gets the A in the talking-heads category as the only host to give a consistent appearance of impartiality (he's tough on everyone from the Republicans to the Green Party.) Our favorite moment this season came when he grilled Bush EPA director Christie Todd Whitman on arsenic standards for water. As she parried, he thrust — reaching under his desk for a two-foot stack of studies confirming the levels were too high. We also like how Russert replays videotaped comments of guests contradicting themselves in earlier interviews. He acts like a moral compass for politicians — and God knows we need one.

And where would we be without *Extra, Inside Edition* and *Access Hollywood*, the best of tabloid TV? Where else would we get the real scoop on the Robert Blake murder mystery, replete with interviews with OJ Simpson (aren't his 15 minutes up *yet*?) giving his theories on who murdered Bonny Lee Bakley and how Blake should deal with the press (OJ's sage advice: take the route of the Ramseys; get an attorney and deny everything.)

And were it not for tabloid TV, we'd have missed Jenna Bush's hearing on alcohol charges. Looking incredibly trashy in a black halter top with uncombed hair, Bush pled no contest before Austin Community Court Judge Elizabeth Earle, paid $50 in fines, received eight hours of community service, and must attend alcohol awareness classes (we thought her awareness of alcohol was the problem.) Bush appeared on her own behalf, proving that, like all members of her family, she is indeed as dumb as she looks.

Finally, our quote of the week comes, once again, from social critic and comedian Bill Maher on *Politically Incorrect*. Talking about the US Supreme Court's unanimous decision to ban the medical use of marijuana, authored by brain trust Clarence Thomas, Maher said, "Who are these people to deny the sick and deny relief from pain? If these are the *compassionate* conservatives, then the tough ones must be out hunting Santa Claus down. How can they be so callous to the frail and dying? The Supreme Court reserved their right to deny Americans a little dope in the hospital, while reserving their right to put a big dope in the White House."

And we're one toke over the line, sweet Jesus. Only one. ▼



OUT&ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



(a)ero-mestiza

Mixing it up

To say one is a queer artist is to be redundant. To be queer, in the lexicon still being hammered out by "gay" and "queer" persons of all stripes, is de facto to be artist. Queer is the art of rebelling against status quo. Queer is the art of imagining and rendering conceptions of "otherness" that defy stereotypes. Queer is the art of illuminating differences without putting down others; of confronting entrenched ideologies with fresh notions; of enriching mainstream culture with many vibrant subcultures; of spotlighting and countering the homophobic, racist, classist notions that damage and weaken meanstream culture; of embracing notions of community without abandoning identity or dignity; of partying in style while always looking out for the health and well being of fellow partiers; of exploding ossified notions of gender; of resisting those who would evict low-income artists, the elderly, people with terminal diseases and others solely to reap greater profits; of lighting up faces with acts of street theater perpetrated solely for fun; of resisting patriarchy without belittling men; of asserting a feminist/lesbian politics in the face of the macho-male politics that rule and ruin the nation; of re-ordering the senses as a way to chart new territories of psychic/artistic exploration, avenues for the mainstream to follow once old paths have proven dead ends.

Queer performance/art has proven its power to reshape culture, to impact on society in profound ways. It invites our gaze into worlds of difference. It imparts ideas that counter and correct the path mainstream culture plows in its steady, implacable march toward "progress."

On Friday, May 25, queer performance/art makes new headway when the Asian American Theatre Company, in collaboration with the National Queer Arts Festival and the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center, presents ***(a)eromestiza.*** The production, curated by Gigi Otalvaro-Hormillosa (aka the Devil Bunny in Bondage), utilizes live performance, video and art installations in works by queer, Pinay, Asian Pacific Islanders, and mixed-heritage women from San Francisco and New York City.

The show's participants have been encouraged to "challenge stereotypical representations of identity, community, sex, and eroticism by exploring these issues through the aerodynamic filter of a new 'mestizaje' in which ther is a constant, yet fluid interplay between racial and sexual identities."

Exhibiting works will be dancer/performance artist Julie Tolentino Wood; filmmaker Madeleine Lim; choreographer Jill Emiko Togawa; performance artist Lorraine Bautista; installation artist Eliza Barrios; filmmaker Barbara Malaran; multi-media, mixed-race, post-mod pfffeminist munchyruggydyke artist Iraya L. Robles; and Filipina performing artist Michelle Bolong. ▼

***(a)eromestiza* features two programs in four separate performances, Friday through Sunday, May 25-26. Tickets are $12 & $15. SomArts, 934 Brannan St. (btwn 8th & 9th sts.). Tix/info: 440-5545; www.asianamericantheater.org; www.apiculturalcenter.org**



Jerry Halliday (with Sista Girl and the Not So Holy Nun) headlines the comedy showcase at Piaf's. See Monday.

Fri 25

Squint

Opening reception: "In a Boy's Dream," paintings and drawings by René Capone, who uses the figure in art to create a sense of mystery, eroticism and awe of the human body, and the abstract to convey a sense of urgency and passion. Drinks & sounds served. Free. 7pm-midnight. 678 Geary St. (at Leavenworth). Info: 254-0777; www.rcapone.com

Zeum Theater

Reception/performance: "Fighting for Survival," in which artists of the Inter-Arts Center (IAC) of SF State University fight for their program's survival by exhibiting works fusing elements of all media, including visual, audio, textual, spatial and kinesthetic expression. The student artists are upset that SFSU College of Creative Arts Dean Keith Morrison "has tyrannically decided that the Inter-Arts Center should be shut down. . . . The threatened closure is emblematic of the clearcutting of culture that is happening here in the Bay Area and beyond." $5 (free with student ID). 7pm reception; 8pm performance/screening. 221 Fourth St. (at Howard). Info: IAC, 338-1478.

Roxie Cinema

"2nd SF Sex Worker Film & Video Festival 2001," featuring Annie Sprinkle, Scarlot Harlot and more. $25 single-day pass; $50 all-event pass. Info: 751-1659; www.bayswan.org/swfest.html

Herbst Theatre

SFJazz presents "Legacy of the Bass: Brown & McBride," featuring the Ray Brown Trio and the Christian McBride Band. $5-$36. 8pm. Tix: 776-1999; www.sfjazz.org; SFJazz Store, #3 Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level. Info: 788-SFJF (7353).

Paramount's Great America

Gus presents "Gay and Lesbian Night at Great America," the giant kick-off party for "Colossus 5.0," bringing alive the circuit scene during the Memorial Day weekend (including "Metropolis" on Sat. and "Mass" on Sun.). Rides open till midnight. Dancing till 3am. All ages welcome (not open to general public). Stage 01: DJ Roland Belmares, with Inaya Day live. Stage 02: DJs Olga T and Blackstone, with members of Showtime's "Queer As Folk!" live. Stage 03: Club Papi presents DJs St. John and Mike, with Pepper Mashay live. Paramount's Great America will make a donation for each ticket sold to the Gay-Straight Alliance Network. $45 adv.; $60 door; $90 three-party pass. From Hwy 101 take Great America Parkway exit in Santa Clara. Tix at Body, All American Boy, Body Body, Gold's Gym Castro; www.ticketweb.com. Info: www.guspresents.com

SomArts Cultural Center

Asian American Theatre Company presents (a)eromestiza in collaboration with the National Queer Arts Festival and the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center. Curated by Gigi Otalvaro-Hormillosa. $12 and $15. 7pm and 9pm. 934 Brannan St. (btwn 8th & 9th). Reservations: 440-5545. Info: www.asianamericantheater.org

The Plush Room

Cabaret queen Sharon McNight performs "Songs to Offend Almost Everyone," a program designed to shove PC back into the closet and bolt the door. It's a night of under-the-counnter songs designed to offend minorities and majorities alike. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 3pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Info: 885-6800; www.plushroom.com

Sat 26

Live Oak Park, Berkeley

"Himalayan Fair," with arts, crafts, music, dance and food, sponsored by Bay Area Friends of Tibet, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, and others. $5 donation. 10am-7pm. Also May 27, 10am-5:30pm. Info: (510) 869-3995; www.himalayanfair.net

Solano Ave., Berkeley/Albany

"Chocolate & Chalk Art Festival," in which areas of sidewalk will be assigned to participants to create their own fanciful chalk paintings. Find all five chocolate kisses hand-chalked on the sidewalks and win $100 cash. The Chocolate Festival Tent at 1245 Solano Avenue is host to over 25 chocolate vendors ($4 entry). Dogs By Diane will host a Dog Fashion Show at 2pm (register your pooch at 510-524-9779). Starts 9am. Info: (510) 527-5358; www.solanoavenueassn.org

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents its semi-annual New Experimental Works (NEW) Night. The 2-hr.+ program mixes film and video, including several premieres by West Coast film/video makers. $5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Herbst Theatre

SFJazz presents "The Music of Dave Holland and Charles Mingus," featuring the Dave Holland Quintet and Mingus Amungus. $5-$36. 8pm. Tix: 776-1999; www.sfjazz.org; SFJazz Store, #3 Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level. Info: 788-SFJF (7353).

El Rio

Club Red presents "Mango," a dance party offering "sweet sexy fun for women." With hip-hop, reggae/dancehall, salsa, samba and soca courtesy of resident DJs Chili-D and edag. $7. 3pm-8:30pm (BBQ 3-5pm). 3158 Mission St. Info: 339-8310.

550 Barneveld

Gus presents "Metropolis: Circus Maximus," part of the weekend-long "Colossus 5.0," the ultimate circuit/circus party, jam-packed with slick, shirtless young guys (and guys who remain young forever) dancing at the speed of light. Smiles and sweaty hugs galore. The music rules. Featuring DJs Mark Anthony and Dawna Montel in the main room, with Jon P. in the Green Room and Derek upstairs. 10pm-8am. $20 adv.; $35 door. Tix at Body, All American Boy, Body Body, and Gold's Gym Castro.

Paradise Lounge

Our favorite glitter-rock band, Blue Period, amps up the sonic/scenic delirium of "Glitz," the glam-rock nightclub complete with Damian's Instant Glamour Booth for emergency makeovers. Featuring BP along with fiercely athletic, searingly erotic Sparrows Point, leaders of the nu-metal tribe, and Bubble, the LA band with ex-members of Vixen and Dogs D'Amour. DJ Danny spins kick-ass rock 'n' roll. Also: Moral Minority,



Mark Mardon

Singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield and band play at the Last Day Saloon. See Thursday.



Opium, part of "In a Boy's Dream," paintings and drawings by René Capone, at Squint. See Friday.

Inc. presents the Rubbish Lounge with Claire Ahll spinning psyched-out funk/disco. Lewd behavior encouraged. Local rock 'zine *Teenage Kicks* celebrates the release of issue #5. Dress and party like a rock star. $10 ($5 b4 10pm). 11th & Folsom. Info: www.blue-period.com/glitz

Sun 27

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Robert Sibley Park hike and enjoy great bay views from these volcanic peaks. It's a moderate 6-7 mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:45am outside the Rockridge BART station. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Herbst Theatre

SFJazz presents "Duology," featuring the Joshua Redman/Christian McBride Duo. $5-$36. 8pm. Tix: 776-1999; www.sfjazz.org; SFJazz Store, #3 Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level. Info: 788-SFJF (7353).

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley

Berkeley Lyric Opera Orchestra perform works by Bach, Stravinsky, Mozart and Prokofiev, featuring the remarkable young pianist Ivan Ilic. Conducted by John Kendall Bailey. $20 ($15 student/senior). 8pm. 2727 College Ave, Berkeley. Info: (510) 843-5781.

El Rio

Live salsa on the patio with Once. Take the salsa class to warm up. The guys and gals are gorgeous and mostly gay. Doors open 8pm; salsa class at 3:15pm; complimentary omnivore BBQ 3-5pm; live show and dancing 4-8pm. El Rio is a neighborhood bar with a clientele who enjoy being in a culturally, racially and sexually mixed environment. $8. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Caesar Chavez & Valencia). 21+w/ID. Info: 282-3325.

Pound-SF

New Wave City hosts a BBQ & dance party featuring a live-band tribute to Joey Ramone, including Blue Period, Dirty Pansy (members of Pansy Division and Dirty Power), Barbee Killed Kenn and The Hell Brothers. Plus New Wave tunes spun by DJs Shindog and Skip. Free until 8pm; $7 after. 5pm-3am (BBQ 5-8pm). Pier 96, end of Cargo Way, off 3rd St. (btwn Cesar Chavez & Evans). Info: 675-LOVE; www.newwavecity.com

Powerhouse

DJ Bus Station John and the Powerhouse present "Back to the Brig III," a tribute to Folsom Street's golden age of sleaze, featuring classic early '80s hi-NRG, vintage vids, go-go clones, and a wet-jockstrap contest at midnight with a $100 cash prize. A portion of proceeds benefits Mikes on Bikes, the queer boys' bicycle contingent, celebrating its fifth year in the Gay Pride Parade. $3. 10pm-2am. 1347 Folsom St. (at Dore Alley, btwn 9th & 10th). Info: 905-8854.

1015 Folsom

Gus presents "Mass," the happening T-dance, with DJs Phil B and Lydia Prim. $30 adv.; $40 door (if available). Special hours: 3pm-midnight. Info: www.guspresents.com

Mon 28

Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

QComedy presents "Gay comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by Jerry Halliday and his "Puppets from hell." Halliday makes all his own puppets — including caricatures of Bette Davis, Tammy Fay Bakker, and other pop icons — creates their voices, and brings them to life on stage. He began his career as a street performer in NYC's Greenwich village. With stand-out stand-up comedy by Lisa Geduldig, Nick Leonard, Mary C. Matthews, Barbee Jean, Bill Santiago, Ian Jensen, and Bridget Schwartz. $5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610. No reservations necessary.

Tue 29

Herbst Theatre

Radio Seoul and Sunday Topic present the "Andre Kim Fashion Fantasia 2001," featuring creations by the doyen of Korean haute Couture. In a career spanning more than 40 years, Kim has promoted Korean culture through gala fashion shows worldwide. Among his famous clients has been Michael Jackson. $40 & $50. 7:30pm. Also on May 30. 401 Van Ness Ave. Info/tix: Helen You at Radio Seoul, 567-3685.

Wed 30

API Wellness Center

"Asylum!" a workshop conducted by immigration attorney Sharon M. dulberg, who will discuss asylum based on sexual orientation and HIV status, as well as other immigration questions. Open to all. Translators available. Snacks served. Free. 7pm. Audre Lorde Room. 3543 18th St. RSVP: Hung at 292-3420, ext. 350. Info: www.apiwellness.org

Thu 31

Lobby, Yerba Buena Performing Arts Theater

Exhibition opening: "Making a Case for Community History," a pioneering collaboration of community curators and historical and museum professionals. This year's event focuses on the transformative implications of queer ownership of public spaces, beginning with bars and churches. The exhibition also focuses on the Pacific Center for Human Growth, the Women's Building, and an East Bay grassroots coalition of GLBT persons in the African American church. Free. Thru June 21. 6:30-8pm weekdays; 1-5pm & 6:30-8pm weekends. The exhibition will be displayed at the Civic Center Pride Celebration site, at Polk & Grove, June 23-24.

Zeum

The Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC) presents the "LYRIC Champion Awards 2001," honoring youth activists Saurabh Bajaj and Gina De Vries and Gay-Straight Alliance Network founder Carolyn Laub. $75 ($25 LYRIC alumni). 6pm reception, silent auction; 7:30pm awards presentation; 8pm dessert buffet. 221 Fourth St. (at Howard), Yerba Buena Gardens. Info: 355-9988.

ODC Theater

Choreographer Sonya Delwaide unites some of the Bay Area's finest dancers in a montage of four dance works, *Les Invités*. Featuring dancers from the Diablo Ballet, ODC/SF, AXIS Dance Co., and the Berkeley Ballet Theater, in addition to the renowned Frank Shawl, Dara Davis, and Heather Tietsort. Lighting by acclaimed designer Alexander V. Nichols. Including the music of Handel and the heavy, hypnotic beats of Finnish and Swedish folk music. $18. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Info/tix: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odcdance.org/theater

Last Day Saloon

Garrin Benfield and band ("Living A Dream," Eighth Note Records) perform at the Last Day Saloon, the longest running, continuously owned live-music venue in SF (opened August 2, 1973), where many prominent bands got their start. Benfield has been wowing audiences with his virtuoso guitar playing, sexy voice and trenchant songwriting. It's a treat to experience this gay troubadour's remarkable bluegrass/funk/rock/blues style and electric presence. Already a sizeable group of family members, close friends, hangers-on, roadies and fans of all descriptions follow him and his bandmates about as though they were The Grateful Dead. Benfield's lover Joshua Smith continues to be the focus of many of his songs. The opening band is Froggy. $5. 10pm. 406 Clement St. (at 5th Ave.). Info: 387-6343; www.garrin.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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Bay Area Reporter
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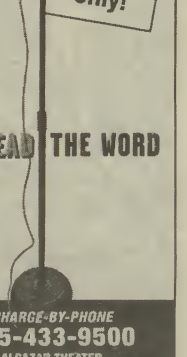
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Roberto Friedman

Sculptor Tilden created figures with 'virile bodies of working-class men.'

Mechanics

◀ *Arts cover*

boy contracted scarlet fever at the age of 5. He was enrolled the following year in the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, the year 1849 was a tough one for Mr. Peter Donahue. The sturdy Irish blacksmith arrived in San Francisco with an anvil, a hammer, and his black leather apron. He opened a small blacksmith shop at the corner of Mission and First Streets beneath some shade trees. Donahue built his business into what was to become the first foundry on the Pacific Coast, The Union Ironworks. He was to manufacture the first printing press in the West. He then built the first city railway on the Pacific Coast. Donahue founded the San Francisco Gas Company, which later evolved into Pacific Gas and Electric when it merged with Edison Electric. From very modest beginnings, Donahue was a powerful industrialist by the 1870s.

Paris to the Park

It was during his stint teaching after his 1879 graduation that Tilden became interested in sculpture. He began to study the art in his free time. So impressed were the school trustees by Tilden's early works, they were able to secure a scholarship for him in New York and Paris. He accepted, and studied in France with another deaf sculptor, the famed Paul Chopin. Tilden's first formal work, *The Ballplayer*, won him great acclaim in Paris. Today, the sculpture may be viewed in Golden Gate Park.

At the crest of Nob Hill stands the majestic Mark Hopkins Hotel, but in 1894, the site was occupied by the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art, the former Hopkins mansion. When Tilden returned from Europe, he taught sculpture there.

Tilden was to create three major art works for the Market Street Beautification Project at the turn of the 20th century: the Admission Day Monument (Market and Montgomery Streets), *California Volunteers* (Market and Dolores Streets), and one more, which would become his greatest work. With a bequest of $25,000 from James Mervyn Donahue, the son of the late Peter Donahue, Tilden would create his masterpiece, the Donahue Memorial Fountain, now known as the Mechanics Monument, at the intersection of Market, Bush, and Battery.

Commissioned to create a monument for the Donahues, Tilden had difficulty finding an idea. Taking a walk on Mission Street, he passed an open-air machine shop and spotted a sweat-drenched, muscular man operating a "punch press" machine. Thinking of how Donahue began his empire, he envisioned an oversized version of a punch press in bronze, with five men struggling to operate it. The Donahues were skeptical when they saw his sketches, but Mayor Phelan, who had been a great patron of Tilden, insisted that the sculptor have freedom of expression to create an enduring monument that would be a tribute to all those who had toiled to make the Peter Donahue fortune — it would be the greater tribute.

Classic nudes

Controversy arose in the months before the scheduled opening, when it was learned that Tilden designed the piece with his magnificently built male ironworkers with no clothing. Some thought that the statue should depict the authentic outfits (or at least the pants) of the men the monument salutes. Others, including many artists, believed this public work of art would be far more "artistic" if the men were more in line with classical sculpture of the male physique and remained in the nude. A petition was circulated, and the monument was approved in the name of artistic expression. The statue would show the workers without clothes.

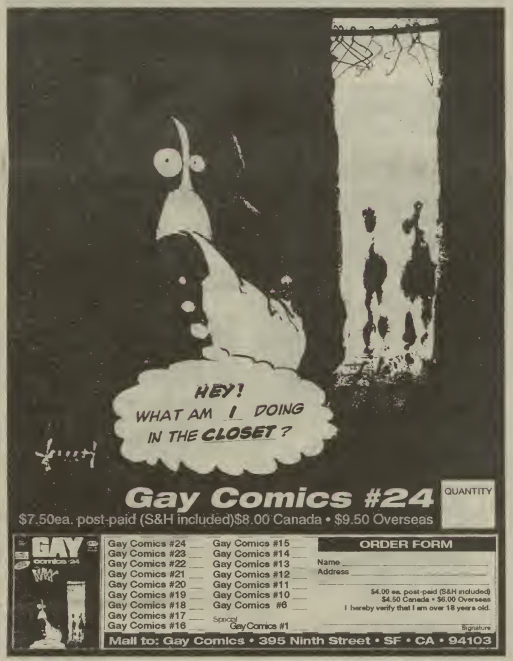
Tilden worked on the statue for 10 months. A 19-year-old from Oakland, John Winfield Pearson, posed for the statue. Pearson was interested in physical culture and had a beautiful physique. Pearson's idol was Eugen Sandow, the "father of modern bodybuilding." It is believed Pearson modeled for the youngest of the male figures in the group, the energetic youth dangling from the very top. Pearson went on to attend Stanford University in the same class as Herbert Hoover (whom he didn't like), and later became a prominent engineer and inventor. Pearson opened an office on New Montgomery Street, and it is said children would peer into his office just to see him working at his desk, because of his handsome looks and physique, apparently visible even under his shirt. He exercised at the Olympic Club on Sutter Street to maintain his musculature, and was eventually to meet his hero, Sandow himself.

The monument was unveiled on May 15, 1901 to a huge crowd. As a band played, the fountain was engaged, and water sprayed against a platform designed by Tilden's friend, architect Wills Polk. The crowd cheered its immediate approval. The five muscular, larger-than-life males displayed their brawn proudly, without pants. Two of the men wore only leather blacksmith aprons, and the rest wore only loose-fitting loincloths. These bronze men would represent the mechanics for all time, in the classical Greco-Roman style.

Some believe that the most spectacular of the figures, a massive man who holds the larger portion of a hunk of sheet metal, may be inspired by Sandow himself. Though his apron covers him from the front, his magnificently developed back is completely visible from behind. Muscles bulging, the three youths pulling the great lever at the top struggle in unison to operate the press and puncture the metal. Tilden said his figures had the "virile bodies of working-class men," and indeed they do. It is a tribute to strength and perfectly developed men as much as a monument to hard work and manual labor.

The great earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906 gutted the commercial district where the monument stood. When the population filtered back into the city after a four-day exile, there the men of the monument stood over the broken and evaporated pool, their muscles gleaming, hard at work re-building the burned-out city. The monument was to become an inspiration to take the city back from its pitiful ashes.

The statue was remounted without the pool. Though moved a few feet over the years, it has remained at the same corner for a century, only one block away from the small blacksmith shop that Peter Donahue built. ▼





Joe Goode

◀ *Arts cover*

we know, sensually?"

What the Body Knows is the new work. There are stories, characters, humor and pathos, and lots of dancing. The material is an organic embroidery of Goode's own inklings, along with the experiences of his dancers, collaborators all, willing to spill their guts and then dance them. Goode is writer, facilitator, director as well as choreographer. The art, according to Goode, is to put it all together and find the through-line, the place where all the thematic inspiration and disparate expression comes together. *What the Body Knows*, part of Goode's performance run at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre, May 30 to June 3, will offer tales of eczema, gay infidelity, a woman's coming undone, as well as sensual video images, original music, and dancing that is alternately erotic and "careening through space."

Dynamic dual

Goode overlaps the edges that separate acting and dancing. It comes, he says, from his own dual interest. "I love speaking, language, the human voice. I love dancing in the same way."

His dancers are definitely dancers, he says. "Actors couldn't give me the complex, high velocity movement I do," he says. But when he draws the material from their own lives and "edits fiercely," he is one of the few artists able to make talking dancers not only work, but have resonance and impact. "They bring audiences in," he says, "because I care very much about what is being said, and because they are talking about things that are real to them. You have to believe in the people onstage before you will enter their world."

All his work deals with the

next page ▶



RJ Muna

Dancer Marc Morozumi

In endless song

Laurel Massé's 'Feather and Bone'

by Michael McDonagh

Singing is a human necessity like speaking, and singers who speak plainly are better than those who don't. Laurel Massé, who co-founded The Manhattan Transfer with Tim Hauser in 1972, is certainly one who sings directly. There's never a false move in her new 12-song Premonition CD *Feather and Bone*, and not one gimmick. And when you've sung with a virtuosic group like the Transfer, that's no small achievement. Massé had enormous success with them; following a near-fatal accident, she left New York, enjoyed a long stint with a band in Chicago, and then retreated to the tiny hamlet of North Creek in upstate New York.

You might think that she's re-invented herself, but what she's really done is return to her roots, to — in Joseph Campbell's pregnant phrase — "follow her bliss." And that, for her, means solo singing. *Feather and Bone* is the fruit of her solitude, and what she's brought out of it couldn't be purer or more stunningly simple.

The CD's title refers to the celestial sphere we long for and the terrestrial one we actually inhabit. The first song, the old Quaker hymn "How Can I Keep From Singing," sets up this dichotomy — "Since love abounds in heaven and on earth" — and Massé sings it with a restrained ecstasy tinged with pain and sadness, emotions everyone knows. Like any real artist, she approaches each song as a unique experience, adjusting her sound accordingly. "I Am the Mountainy Singer," which she composed to an Irish folk poem, has a certain rustic rawness, and Jay Ungar on fiddle. This is worlds away from the "Hymn to the Muse," in Greek, which Massé says "is the oldest complete notated piece in Western music, composed by Mesomedes of Crete in the first century BCE." Here she uses different parts of her voice in each succeeding strophe, first dusky, then clearer, to convey a sense of eternity. Her singing seems to come out of the drone of the crystal bowl played by Molly Scott.



John Abbott

Laurel Massé has returned to her roots on *Feather and Bone*.

Ecstasy on earth

Massé takes a similarly ritualistic approach to several other songs here. Her setting of the ancient Latin text "Ave Maria" is rich with Eastern-sounding melodic turns and melismas evocative of Byzantine sacred music which heighten the ecstatic nature of the poem, a plea for comfort in our mortal life. "Radiant Flame of Gold" is another intense invocation, this time to the Celtic goddess Brigit and her Christian counterpart St. Brigit of Kildare. Massé speaks in a low conversational tone to the accompaniment of the interlocking rhythms of the tar, North African frame drums, played with precision and nuance by Tommy Brunges and Layne Redmond. She's joined by Nancy Crutcher Tunnicliffe on bagpipes in " Lone Wild Bird/MacIntosh's Lament," a powerful tune reminiscent of "Amazing Grace," and like most of the songs here, it's both chant and prayer.

Do we need to be reminded of the fact that music is a sacred thing like love itself, a gift not to be taken lightly or for granted? Massé obviously doesn't require reminding. Her album is basic, provocative, and moving. Singing as expressive as this doesn't happen every day. Massé seems to sing from experience, and isn't that what life and art are all about? ▼

Beyond 'Ken Burns' Jazz'

by Gregg Shapiro

If you tuned into PBS to watch documentary film-maker Ken Burns' *Jazz* series earlier this year, you were given a real sense of the history of jazz. If, at the end of it, you found yourself wondering where to go from there, the good news is that there are plenty of new jazz recordings from which to choose.

You can hear echoes of the piano work of Art Tatum, Count Basie, and even Duke Ellington on *Places* (Warner Brothers) by Brad Mehldau, *Written in the Stars* (Blue Note) by Bill Charlap Trio, and Matthew Shipp's *New Orbit* (Thirsty Ear). Mehldau, Charlap and Shipp all remind us of what it is about the piano that makes it so well-suited for the improvisation essential to jazz.



On *Places*, Brad Mehldau has recorded both solo and trio (with Larry Grenadier on bass and Jorge Rossy on drums) pieces. Mehldau is as comfortable working alone as he is with an ensemble, and the solo and trio numbers are all distinctive. I enjoyed the seven solo pieces (out of 13 total tracks) more, particularly "29 Palms," "Los Angeles II" and "Paris." The trio performs in "Schloss Elmau," a standout.

Bill Charlap shares the limelight with the members of his trio Peter Washington (bass) and Kenny Washington (drums) on *Written in the Stars*. The 11 tracks are covers of familiar standards (including "It Was Written in the Stars," "In the Still of the Night," "The Man that Got Away," and "One for My Baby") performed with Charlap's unique touch on the ivories.

For more experimental piano tunes, may I suggest Matthew Shipp's quartet work (Shipp on piano, William Parker on bass, Wadada Leo Smith on trumpet, and Gerald Cleaver on drums) on *New Orbit*. Shipp's jazz compositions respectfully combine the past, present and future into challenging musical moments.

Where else but on a Medeski, Martin and Wood album would jazz, hip-hop beats and punk guitars be able to come together without too much bloodshed? *The Dropper* (Blue Note), like MMW's previous discs, seems to be the musical bridge for old and young jazz fans.

There is also enough room on the musical bridge for the San Francisco-based trio known as the Broun Fellinis, who count James Brown, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock and Ornette Coleman among their influences. Those influences and others come through loud and clear on the Broun Fellinis' 1998 album *Out through the N Door* (Weed), just reissued on CD.

If your taste in jazz runs toward the more traditional, fear not. Young trumpet player David Young will blow you away when you hear him perform with his quintet New Republic on his debut disc of original material *Appassionata* (Big Chicago). The nine songs (in four acts), ranging from up-tempo jam ("Charlie's Pocket") to Latin-tinged number (the title track and "Peach") to downtempo balladry ("When I Knew Emilie" and "Tearful Waltz"), are a superb introduction to a new artist bursting with talent. ▼

Joe Goode

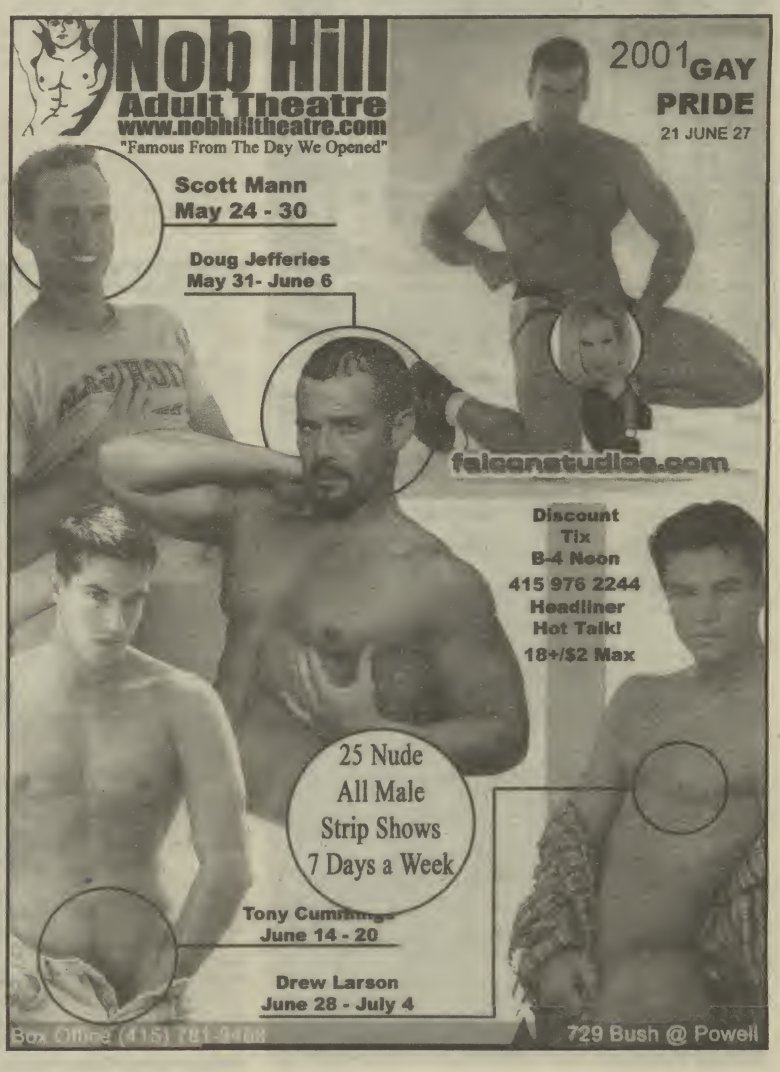
◀ previous page

same questions, he says. "My terrain is, what is the human experience, and why are we such fools?"

"Hapless," another piece on the program, deals with "lost people." "They can't begin to find their way, they come close but miss." "Take Place," the third piece on the bill, is imbued with nature. "What if we acted like we were just specks in the cosmos, instead of dominating the world?"

Goode's new work also includes an outdoor performance installation in the Yerba Buena Gardens next to the theatre, including guest performers and high school-aged dancers, free and open to the public every night of the run, at 7 p.m. ▼

Joe Goode Performance Group presents *What the Body Knows* Wednesday, May 30 through Sunday, June 3, at 8 p.m. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. For tickets ($20-$30), call (415) 978-ARTS.



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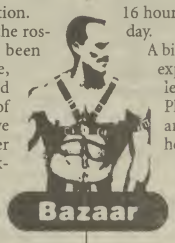
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Chicago here we come

by Mister Marcus

The long months of preparation all over the world come to a climax this Sunday, May 24 when some 60-plus leather men will assemble on the stage of the Congress Theatre in Chicago for the 23rd annual International Mr. Leather contest, the world's largest leather competition.

Since March 2000, the roster of competitors has been building up in Europe, Australia, Canada, and almost all the 50 states of the U.S.A. There have been countless leather festivals, leather weekends, and contests at the bar, city, state and regional levels that will bring the pride of the leather communities together for one helluva big party in the Windy City.



The swank Palmer House Hilton in Chicago awaits the invasion, and IML volunteers are there already, as are many of the contestants, judges, vendors and even the bears who will attend the Great Lakes Bears weekend taking place in Chicago this same weekend.

All over the country, send-off celebrations have been taking place to cheer the hometown boys on their way for one of the most exhilarating experiences they will ever encounter. Leather celebrities at every level will mingle, mix and network all weekend. More than two dozen parties will be taking place, including the big Canadian Maple Leaf, the IM Deaf Explosion party, and the San Francisco party. Mark Malan has put together an All California party where some 20 California men will be presented.

Even at this late date, American Airlines is offering a web-only round-trip fare of $239 for travel to Chicago between May 25-27 and return between May 27-29 only. If you made up your mind to go at the last minute, click on www.aa.com immediately. There have been some cancellations at the host hotel too, so you might call them and check availability.

The first major event of the weekend is the Mr. Ebony In Leather contest being held at the world famous Cell Block on upper Halsted Street. The judges will be conducting interviews for a solid 16 hours on Friday and Saturday.

A big California presence is expected with Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, Long Beach and New York sending hefty contingents.

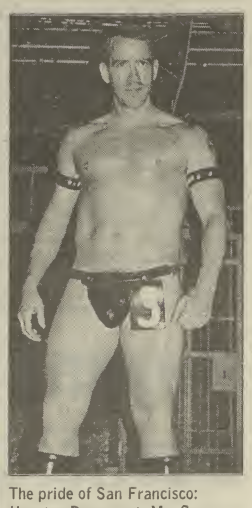
The contest itself takes place on Sunday evening so you should all know the results sometime Sunday night if you're out and about.

I'll be on the judging panel and wouldn't leave home without my laptop, so you'll know the results if you check email late Sunday night.

Drummer update

The race for the International Mr.Drummer 2001 title continues. Last weekend at the Full Moon Saloon in Orlando, Florida, the first of several Florida contests took place to name Full Moon Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy. Mr. Full Moon Drummer is Jose Bermudez and the Drummer Boy is Shawn Carey. They will both advance to the Mr. Florida Drummer competition in July.

At the 501 Eagle in Indianapolis on Saturday, May12, hosted by the Falcons and Uncommon Bonds, the Indiana Drummer Man and Boy were chosen by a select panel of judges. When all the categories were judged the results were: James McKim is Indiana Mr. Drummer and Brent Suit is the Drummer Boy. They will advance to compete for the Great Lakes Region Drummer contest. No date has been set for this regional competition.



The pride of San Francisco: Houston Davenport, Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001, will compete with 61 other men from around the world for the International Mister Leather 2001 title in Chicago this Sunday, May 27 at the Congress Theatre.

The Asian connection

It could only happen in San Francisco: the establishment of Kinky GASM, a project designed to support gay Asian leather men. Their first gathering (Working Out the KINKS) will be on Thursday night May 24 at the Women's Bldg. At 1930 and it's free! The organizers hope to educate those Asian men and women interested in leather sex and serve as a springboard for positive growth in what is viewed as a "marginalized" community while promoting understanding with acceptance and inclusion.

For more info, call Hung at (415) 292-3420, ext. 350 or email hdang@apiwellness.org. The next meeting is on Thursday, July 28 and again on Thursday, September 27. ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, May 24-28

International Mr. Leather 2001 weekend in Chicago. Thousands are already in the Windy City for a round of networking, parties, vendors, bears, and the International Mr. Leather competition with some 62 contestants vying for leatherdom's highest title. See you there? Results here exclusively next week and on www.LeatherPage.com.

Pegasus MOC weekend run to San Simeon/Morro Bay departs from Castro Theatre at 0900 Saturday, with prices ranging from $165 to $245. Call 415-924-7550 or email Pegasus-MOC@rocketmail.com.

Also, the Los Angeles Satyrs MC spring run, but no details at my deadline.

Thursday, May 24

Mr. Ebony in Leather 2001 contest at the world-famous CellBlock at 2930, emcee'd by Queen Cougar and Frank Nowicki. The judges are André English, Viola Johnson, Terrell Brown, Mark Frazier, Rick Morris and Jack Rinella. Thanks Rick for a great year with the title. Ms. Berlinger should be overjoyed!

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 2000-2300 for only $6 and they say it's a "no frills" event — and they mean it!

The new Kinky GAM group meets at the Women's Building at 2930 (see details above).

Friday, May 25

In Chicago, International Deaf Leather group presents "Windy City Explosion," a gathering in the State Ballroom of the Palmer House host hotel.

Also: IML Boot Black Party in PDR 17 (5th floor) to benefit the International Boot Black 2001 travel fund, with an auction of a Leather Pride Flag signed by Tony DeBlase.

Also: the Toronto Maple Leaf Party with all the Canadian contestants introduced.

Sunday, May 27

In Chicago: International Mr. Leather 2001 contest at 1830, in the Congress Theatre — almost 3,000 leather people will be there to witness our highest leather title being bestowed on 1 of 62 contestants. Wish you were here!

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the SF Eagle, 1500-1800 for $8 with food and continuous cruising, well beyond the time frame.

Thursday, May 31

Bears of SF (BOSF) distribute funds from International Bear Rendezvous 2001 to their beneficiaries this evening in the Whitcomb Ballroom at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (8th & Market) at 1930. To receive funds: Dolores St. Community Services, Home Care Companions and the Immigration Rights Task Force. For more info: info@bosf.org.

Saturday, June 2

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900 for a mere $7. Always fun quaffing the suds with the Guards!

Weekend, June 4-7

Southeast Leather Fest in Atlanta, Georgia with all sorts of activities and choosing Southeast Drummer Man, Boy, International Master & Slave plus more!

Saturday, June 9

Bay Area Submissives meet from 1300-1500. For invite and location, call 415-430-2150, Ext.8984 or click on info@bayareasubmissives.org.

High-impact sexuality

'Sexpacks 3 & 4': Masculinity on display

by John F. Karr



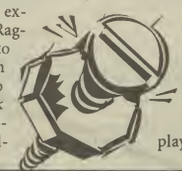
Jeff Allen and Tom Vacarro in *Sexpack 3: Lewd Developments*

Raging Stallion Studios

There are very few pornographers who speak a sexual vocabulary, and Raging Stallion Studio's Chris Ward is chief among them. He doesn't need plot because his prose is sexuality. One of the things I've liked best about Ward's videos is that he was unafraid to work in black boxes, those placeless places where the focus is strictly on sex. Ward dressed them sparingly, with a piece of furniture or single prop that provided an architectural or colorful accent. With J.D. Slater's artful lighting, which uses color and shadow to sculpt the playing area and assuage the mood, Ward composed scenes that were visually striking, masculine, and frequently elegant, while providing direction that unfailingly elicited high-impact sex from his performers.

There's another reason I like Ward's black-box shoots. I like to be lost in masculinity. Not a plumber getting serviced after he fixes a leaky faucet, or a forest ranger apprehending some miscreant camper. Who are these people? Not me. When a performer isn't given a fictional identity, he is freed not only to make the most spontaneous connection with his sexuality, but he's freed to become me. The transformative power of porn is a pleasure not to be foregone. It's a release Ward delivers regularly.

With co-director Slater, Ward's plotless explorations of undiluted and frequently extreme sexuality made Raging Stallion's tribute to the classic, closed form of loops in the first two editions of their *Sexpack* series hard-hitting ruminations on men's sexuality. So it's somewhat of a surprise to find that the constant sexual success of *Sexpack 3: Lewd Developments* is nonetheless marred by minor blemishes. Two of its scenes are harshly overlit in the Falcon manner, and then the reverse occurs: a key dildo sequence finds the actual point of insertion awkwardly obscured by shadows.



Karrnal Knowledge

The opening scene is uncharacteristically aimless, lacking the sense of progression that's usually so assured in Ward's work. And although the scene begins as a threeway, the third guy barely registers — I was so surprised when he showed up for the final cum shot that I thought maybe he was out to lunch. Last, the movie's got a hook. It's a simple one that needs only a few seconds for its exposition, but it's a hook nonetheless, and takes us out of the black box.

Yet it doesn't take much to hook a viewer with performers like Tom Vacarro and that stick of dynamite Jeff Allen, who explodes in the first scene. Allen's compact body is solidly muscled, and covered with enticing fur. He's got a drill sergeant's fierce demeanor, which, along with his salt-and-pepper crewcut, makes you wanna salute. He's a Guy with a capital G, and I'm gonna marry him just as soon as I get outa rehab.

Lucky Mark Evrett gets pounded hard by creamy Lance Gear, in a craftily lit darkroom episode. A cockring is the only piece of leather sported by famed leather-pig Gear, but he's dripping his usual raunchy zeal, and I for one am glad to see a leader of the community demonstrating such effective leadership.

Marko, a husky and uncut man, has a prolonged solo with a cockpump. He struts around, showing off the pump-encased cock, while playing with his hole. When his bloated bazooka is freed, he blubbers it about 'til it's hard, sits down on a giant black dildo, and rocks himself to a deep-seated climax. The video's last and longest sequence brings us glamorous Bryce Pierce with newcomer Billy Knight, a boyish morsel. Pierce looks so fine in chain-mail accoutrements, his bulging pouch an especially Holy Grail.

Masculine moods

Sexpack Four: Porn Noir is a complete return to form, a classic display of intense and moody masculinity. For one thing, all of its chapters are black-box sequences. Three of them are expansive half-hour segments. A fourth, briefer bonus scene is a solo jack-off that shows off one of the video's stars in solitary splendor.

I became highly enamored of debuting Nate Summers, a svelte good looker who's pretty glam with his slicked-back black hair, refined nose, and high, blushing cheekbones. Oh, and his butt stuffed with a succession of sizable dildos. The set for this scene includes a door with eight window panes. It's not only a clever reflective device, but offers the most novel sights of insertion when a dildo is stuck to the glass and the camera peers through from behind. Then there's something way beyond most porn directors: a concision of editing in which the camera glides up the dildo toward its nesting tunnel until the screen goes black, only to pull back out of Nate's striking gypsy eye to a new moment of action. It's a groovy visual. And this is the sequence Ward and Slater serve up as the video's opening appetizer.

Porn Noir doesn't relent. If I'd prefer the gym workout between a refulgent Dean Coulter and buff Chris Steele to be straightforwardly told, instead of intercut with Steele's fantasy leathersex with Coulter, it's still a knockout knockabout. With hoods, chaps, and a brutish pummeling of Coulter's pecs by Steele, it's S&M-flavored. Some rimming, viewed from a startling vantage point, impressed me anew with the sheer spread of Coulter's splendid ass (and vindicated my purchase of a 36" television.)

The video's finale serves up a prince and a pig: Bryce Pierce and Eddie Moreno. Rough-stuff Moreno comes up with fresh surprises of excess in each movie he's in, and in this one encourages Bryce to not merely suck his dick, but chew and bite it. The Donner Party would have loved Eddie — you don't have to wait 'til he's dead to gnaw off his best part. Between Pierce's fascinating frenum piercings popping over Moreno's lips, and the wriggling that Moreno does on a truly giant dildo — which makes his cock harder than ever — as well as the sensational fuck he throws Pierce, their scene is one butch sensation.

Slater has outdone himself with his music. There's some garage-band stuff — guitar with Hammond organ and drums — that's nasty, and some ambient noir with wry touches of hip hop. The end credits are a delicious Danny Elfman sendup. Leif Gobo proves again what a swell videographer he is, and Ward, as his own editor, provides a smooth and mountingly effective ride. Butcher than butch? *Porn Noir* starts at the top, and doesn't stop escalating. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Easter Candy At Walgreens 4/14
We exchanged several quick glances while shopping for Easter candy at Walgreens at Castro and 18th that afternoon. You: short brown hair, jeans. Can we meet? ☎ 71202

Thursday Night- Luna Piena 4-12
You: African American eating with friend (African American). Me: short hair, saw you on the street, smiled, turned, smiled again. Dinner? ☎ 71203

~Club Universe 4/21/01~
To the guys that helped me in the coat check line around 3 or 4 in the morning when I fainted. Please call for "Thank you!" ☎ 71223

~Glen Park Bart 4/26~
7:30 pm. You, handsome 30s AM, standing across the street. Me: 40s GWM, short blond hair, crossing street with friend. You held my admiring gaze. Can we meet? ☎ 71248

Th 4/26 SFAF Dinner, Ft Mason
Met in bathroom, talked about "20". You: beautiful Asian man at friend's table. Me: White man trying his tie. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71249

Sat 4/28,"Red Grill" 8'ish
Saw you in the lounge, then dining room, me at corner table with 2 friends. Couldn't take my eyes off you. Would love to make you smile again. ☎ 71268

"Castro Community T-Shirt"
Badlands Fri. 4/27, AM in white sleeveless t-shirt wanted to talk. Was it wishful thinking, or did you want to talk to me too? I'm what you've been wanting. ☎ 71269

5/6 Starbucks@ Church & Market
11:30am, we were buying drinks, too shy to talk. You, cute Asian with silver ring on right hand. Me: White with yellow t-shirt, exchanged glances even after I left, Call. ☎ 71270

•Jeremy, Sunday April 29•
Enjoyed talking with you at "Pasta Pomodoro". I was too shy to ask for your number. Give me a second chance? ☎ 71271

Ned!- 'Sundance Saloon'-May 6th
Hello Ned, tried to build-up enough courage to ask you to dance but you left early. Very goodlooking, masculine, nice guy here. Would love to hear from you. ☎ 71272

'Jason M.' From 'Art C.'
Sorry, I missed you but thanks for stopping by Weds. 4/25. You were cut off before you left your ph#. Please try again. Love to see you and catch-up. ☎ 71273

~Steamworks Sun 5-6~
You tall Asian, glasses. Me tad shorter, close cropped hair, mustache. Kissed in back. I was oral. Smiled at each other later. Can we do it again? ☎ 71301

N Judah @ Church Weekends 8am
You: AM departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We often smile & wave. Would you like to meet for coffee? ☎ 71302

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Dorky Literate Jazzy Hipsters!
Me: 35 Latino mutt, dark brn eyes/hair, tallnlanky, down. Wanted: gregarious, spontaneous, make-me-laugh, youngish guys who like to play, dance, camp, read. Sagittarian friendly. No frills. ☎ 71204

Romantic Bright Prof X N.Yorker
Seeks prof., sane, cuddly guy for good times. I'm 6ft, 160lbs, healthy HIV+, passionate, irreverent, Jewish. Your under 50, employed, attractive, any race. ☎ 71205

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# In San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 71206

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Of you like to be sucked I'll be your Latin girlfriend in Santa Rosa love top man we can fuck in the river. Call mi. ☎ 71207

Affectionate Men Over 50
WLM 45, 6' 160lbs. dk hr. ISO men 50+ for sensual times or poss LTR. Facial hair, husky, working class, left-wing politics A+. No gay scene, drugs, but smoking ok. ☎ 71208

•Rugged Asian•
Masculine, dominant, warm hearted, smooth, athletic Asian, 53, 5'8", 155 seeks clean shaven, lean or muscular, smooth WM for adventurous, companion or more. Enjoy working out, sports, hiking, films, arts and you? S 71224

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71225

"Looking For A Friend!"
To spend quality time together, travel, talking, hug & kisses. I am Asian 65 5'9", 150lbs. Please be under 40, trim or muscular, caring & very good looking. Thanks. ☎ 71226

~Tops-R-Us!~
Big-Dick Italian top likes the camaraderie of being with other top men. Need a buddy to "Hang", cruise, stroke, travel, etc? Age, race, looks not important. Masculine in-shape men only! ☎ 71227

•Handsome Young Russian•
Is looking for other cute and intelligent Russian or European boys in their 20's or 30's only. You won't be disappointed and I'm also very faithful. All calls are returned. ☎ 71228

Asian 4 Friendship Or More...
Goodlooking GAM 30, 5'8", slim, masculine, HIV- with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking masculine GWM 45 or younger for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71229

"HIV+"
Cocktail & bullshit free. 40, 6' 170lbs, br/bl, w/big fat cut one, looking for another. ☎ 71230

Regular Guy Seeks Buddy+More!
Masculine WPM outside the scene, tall fit goodlooking, 51, active outdoor and varied indoor interests seeks similar 45-55 for serious relationship. Must be HIV neg. N/S, N/D. ☎ 71250

•Hairy Top•
G/Bi WM wanted. Me: 150# hairless GWM mid 40, 7"cut, into most interest. Great for fuck buddy. ☎ 71251

HIV+GBM SKS GWM Dominant Top
6ft 175, 38 masculine but submissive. Prefer affectionate small build. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 71252

"Muscular Monogamous Man!"
Into TV, pop culture, dancing, cooking, exercise, tit play/body worship; seeks muscular GM for S.F. dates. I'm Asian, young 51, 5'7", 150#, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71253

~That Caribbean Touch!~
Spanish man raised in the Spanish Caribbean seeks other GM for sex and fun. I am a top, 5'8", 155#, well endowed, salt and pepper hair, into yoga and jogging. Very political progressive avid reader, financially independent, good cook and love to travel. Into GWM as well as Latin Americans and Europeans. HIV-, but very HIV+ sensitive. ☎ 71274

•Mulatto Guy Intelligent•,
Educated, real good looking, seeks guys for a relationship for fun and good times. ☎ 71275

VGL Latino "Boy" ISO Hot "Daddy!"
Me: 5'7", 135#, HIV+, goatee, fun and romantic. You: GWM, 40-55, goodlooking, financially secure. Dad type ISO. Please Call! ☎ 71276

POZ GBM ISO Vers GWM Bottom
"6ft, 180lbs. ISO affectionate/ submissive GWM/GLM. Prefer slim, short, small build and smooth." ☎ 71277

"Goodlooking Masculine Rugged!"
Man looking for another for deep friendship and romance. I am good hearted, intelligent, N/S, N/D, bottom. I like rugged hairy tops with good hearts and nice cock. ☎ 71278

~~~~~Suck Buddy~~~~~
Uncut GWM 5"-10", 165#, 7", large balls, HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO regular suck buddy, White, Latino, Asian, North Bay a plus. ☎ 71279

GWM Seeks Goodlooking Male For...
Friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 41, slim trim and fit. Like the outdoors, quiet, romantic evenings at home, loving one another and building a life together. "Let's make it happen!". ☎ 71280

•Friends, Friends, Friends, Help!•
Partner & friends have ahh passed. Looking for buddies to do things with. Can be into many different things. Need someone to share time with. ☎ 71281

"Italian Guys I Am Looking!"
For Italian men who are hung or good looking or just plain Italian guys for sex , fun or relationship. ☎ 71282

•Long Big Clean & Uncut•
Available for White butt. Only. I'm 36yrs old. 5'7", long brown hair, lean, sexy and horny. All calls will be returned. ☎ 71303

"Ideal Match..."
For Scorpio are Pisces. GWM late 40, well educated, honest, kind, pisces, bottom is waiting for you, scorpio. Let's make our life happiest in the world; cause LOVE is EVERYTHING!! ☎ 71304

Live In Europe
With attractive, masculine professional. You are younger, trim, fun loving guy looking for adventure and hot times. ☎ 71305

34 White Bottom ISO Darkest Top
5'11", 195. Very muscular and masculine seeking top who likes to be very dominant. Role playing etc is a big plus! ☎ 71306

"Young Boy!"
You: Over 60, real gentleman, with tender fingers. Me: young, shy boy, like massage, sport, history. ☎ 71307

Palo Alto GAM 45 5'11" 185 36w
ISO a friend under 46 with average cock for me to suck w/no recip... on a reg basis. Have car will come to you. ☎ 71308

I'm 29yrs. "Latino!"
29w,31l, 145wt. ,5'7"ht. HIV+. You btwn 25-45 hairy chest & legs in good shape and well off. ☎ 71309

~~~~~Cancer Survivor!~~~~~
36, 6', 180, br/br attractive, well-adjusted, colon cancer surviving (Ileostomy), orally fixated gym going GWM with great attitude for life. Seek attractive, well-adjusted WM for dating. ☎ 71310

"I Want You The Right Way!!"
GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips ++. ☎ 71311

SEEKING ADVENTURE

~Foreskin Service~
Muscular, fit W/M 45 needs uncut stud with low hangers to unload on my face. Love foreskin and big balls. I'm in Sonoma Co., but can travel. ☎ 71209

Hot, Masc, Horny WM Seeks Same
You: under 30, tall, clean-cut, hung, top/vers., WM. Me: 6'2", 175, brown/blue, clean-cut. Besides sex, you should like movies, sports, dogs, outdoors, home-cooking and cuddling. ☎ 71210

Looking For Sweet Black Daddy
Bi WM late 40's want older Black man, 50's, 60's. Retired, seniors- let me touch, stoke, kiss suck, serve your big thing & take care of it. Castro area. ☎ 71211

Palo Alto 44, 5'11" 190 Blk-Brn
GAM seeks top man for oral maneuvers. Will drive to you. Also likes bare bottom spankings. ☎ 71212

"Sonoma County Dad!"
Would love to pamper and service very pretty, androgynous young men. 18-25. Let me indulge you. I am generous, fun, very oral. ☎ 71213

•Safeway Smile, Market Street•
You've got a great smile. Wednesday 6p.m. 4/11. Check out lines. Let's meet for lunch. ☎ 71214

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY** at **5 PM,** for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The *Bay Area Reporter* reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CATEGORY

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- Seeking Relationship ☐
- Seeking Adventure ☐
- Lesbian ☐
- Fetishes ☐
- Couples ☐
- Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, **30 words maximum**

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Poz GBM Sks Wht Cocksucker
37, 175 6ft wants slim build Wht boy. Be under 35 & Into kissing & sucking. A+ for nerdy or short. ☎ 71215

~Look No Further!~
SWM, cute, athletic, 42/6'/175, HIV-neg, br/br, hairy, clean & horny, looking to serve similar attractive, clean, hung, & HIV neg dude regularly, my place SF. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71216

Dominant Mature GWM
ISO submissive well built HIV- GWM to train for my pleasure. Total obedience and discipline a must for this 6'3" daddy-master. ☎ 71217

Art, Photography, Books
Berkeley Artist late 60's, 5'9"/150 sensual, active, healthy, seeks GWM/GAM, slight build, 25-45 for ongoing passionate friendship. ☎ 71231

"ISO Leather Daddy?"
In-shape, blond, 45yo, HIV- son/boi, seeks hung leather daddy 60- plus into perverse play-- bootlicking, piss, smbd, cbt work, butt play & whatever turns you on. I get off serving mature leather tops-- and so do they! ☎ 71232

Str8 Hairy Stud ISO Xpert Head!
Love 2b sucked off. My old lady won't do it. Ex-Navy man. Shaved head, stach, go-t. 6'/160/7" cut. Mushroom head. Big hairy butt & nuts. "Get me out'a the men's john & In 2 the sack, jack!" Jockstrap has me hot 4 a deep milking. ☎ 71233

"Black Men!"- WM 5'8", 155 Seeks
3 to 4 Black men to service and be their White pussy bitch for a weekend at my place. This bitch will take care of all needs as instructed. ☎ 71234

"I Love Giving Head!"
To hot White & Latino guys 30-45. Me: 6'2" 200lbs, GWM- great ,mouth and throat for your pleasure. HIV- please. Lv msg. ☎ 71235

Shy? Working Out Your Body? Do
You like looking at yourself? Feeling yourself? "Good!" Would you like to show it off as I watch & encourage you? Compliment you? Me: handsome Latin 40, house in Sonoma County. ☎ 71236

~Asian Top!~
Seeking submissive bottom White boy slave for painfully loving encounters. Boy should be clean-shaven, thin to average build, much younger preferred. I'm 39, 5'6", 140lbs. ☎ 71237

Blonde Daddies Boy Great Butt
For the right man. Be tall and big play daddy scenes, daytime verbal & exciting. Aroma A+. ☎ 71238

•FF Butts Wanted•
Make me copy of any FF tape ,In return my med hands up your butt for hours. BM 5'8", 185 welcome any race, your place. ☎ 71239

SR GWM ISO Mature GBM
For mutual touch, J/O. I'm 60's, 5'9", 155# bearded. You're 45+ clean/healthy, medium to beefy. Facial hair A+. N/D ☎ 71240

"Between Boyfriends?"
Oral service for lean tight guy with big meat. Blacks A+. Juicy head from experience sword swallower, with brains, sense of humor, 40's. Call me. ☎ 71241

"This Boy Needs Some Lovin!"
GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, uncut, hairy, seeks passionate extremely hairy daddy types, 40-60 for romance and fun. ☎ 71242

~Enjoy Hot Phone Sex?~
Then give me a call. GWM, 45, 165lbs., 7"cut. Enjoy mutual oral sex and being a top. Am good at tuning into your desires. No S/M. ☎ 71243

Seeking Mature Man Of Color!
SWM, 38, 5'7", 140, brn/blue, cute, boyish, witty, charming, educated, very oral, bottom but also versatile. Uncut, HIV-. For safe sexual fun. Older+, uncut+, Black+, Latin+. ☎ 71254

Pete Is Coming & NDS 2b Rode!
Horny, hunky Italian, formerly of Sanchez Street & now residing in Orlando, will be visiting SF may 1st thru 18th. Total btm, nds to get screwed- a lot. Don't miss it. ☎ 71255

Masculine, Hairy, Hung!
HIV- 5-9, blue eyes, salt pepper hair, 61 in great shape. Into arts, exercise, professional, Santa Cruz, dating or picture exchange for preview ok. ☎ 71256

GWM Seeks Man Of Color Top!
For friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 46, blonde, HIV+, slim. Like outdoors, nature, mutual massage, the arts, music. Please call. ☎ 71257

~Foreskin Lover!~
GWM 50yo loves to give head to uncut men any age race, cut cock ok if over 8". Long slow and deep. Lay back and relax, No games. ☎ 71258

•Weightlifting Nude•
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71260

•Voyeur!•
50's gay couple seeks third to watch. ☎ 71292

Santa Rosa, S.F. On Wknds
48- 5'9"- 145#, gymtoned, tan, handsome & hot, stable, sincere, Spiritual. Enjoy hot tub, massage, & hot sex- seeks in shape guys only. ☎ 71261

Balls, Balls, Balls...
Very Bi curious goodlooking w/50 to kiss, fondle, lick, suck, loose low hangers mutual J/O, maybe more a/w any age/weight. ☎ 71262

"Naughty Butt Nice!"
Me: goodlooking, 5'8", 155#, smooth, 48y.o. Hot bottom needs spanking, probing, & discipline. You: trim daddy, or other, who enjoys a sub-boy. ☎ 71263

"ISO Tit Pigs!!!!"
Hungry to suck on my big beaut nips, masculine, dominant dad 52yo solid tight muscular bod. Shaved head, tats, defined hairy chest w big nips. Also ISO men who are huge, not just big tits. ☎ 71283

"I Suck Asian Cock!"
Attractive White boy, early 30's, loves uncut Asian cock. If you're Asian, 20-30's, and have a nice uncut cock, I'll suck you off. You can feed it all to me! ☎ 71259

Milkman Lookin For Good Gumjob
If you're a 'toothless tiger' and can deep-throat a big head while 'gummin' the base of a thick shaft, I'm your man. 6', 170, 43, laid-back man. Long chew sessions a real turn-on! ☎ 71284

"Al"- SF, 4-22-01
Al of SF. You responded to my ad #71131, "Older Black Men" on 4/22. Your phone number was incomplete. Please call again. ☎ 71285

Hairy Top GBI WM Wanted!
Me: 150# slim hairless GWM mid 40 7"cut into butt, dick. Play open to most role clothing WS & other kink. ☎ 71286

Wanted: "Hung Guys!"
I am looking for guys who are hung "9" inches or larger for a fun time with me. I am hung "9" so give me a call. ☎ 71287

•Striptease: Lost Art?•
SF connoisseur, seeks only cut Caucasian or Hispanic masculine star, 20-32, mid- twenties preferred. Impressive face and physique, charisma and presentation skills required. Safe, confidential fun! ☎ 71288

"Hot, Horny, Asian Into Sex!"
I'm lots of fun, high energy. 5'7", 129lbs with lean, tanned build. Into exploring different scenes. Slender guys big plus! Age/race not important. ☎ 71289

~~Attention Hairy Guys!...~~
U turn me on! 42y.o. Hot bottom wants to service your needs & make you feel good! HIV- only! Lv msg. ☎ 71290

Wanted: Hung Men For Servicing
Goodlooking White guy 40, 188, with dark brown hair, mustache, smooth body, and blue eyes seeks well endowed men for sucking. Only men between 20-45 need apply. All nationalities welcome. ☎ 71291

I'm A Butt Banger, 47 And Hung
Looking for masculine, experienced men who like it from behind (I use the stop and withdraw method). Over 40 and husky build a plus. East Bay. ☎ 71312

Feed Boy Ur Daddick 4 Smooth Job
WM, 45/6'/170. baldbuzz, bearded digs orally servicin' verbal, booted leather/ uniform dadstud w/ thickdick. In gear, ukikback or fuckface, longslowdeep. HIV- ub2, no drugs. Options: titegloves, gars, reds, spit, cuffs? ☎ 71313

Bubble Butt Bottom Wanted
By WM, 49, 6', 170lbs, top, great shape. Be slim to muscular, like to get rimmed & fucked, between 30-50. Prefer Asian, HIV+ only. No fats or fems. ☎ 71314

•Your Personal Cocksucker!•
Talented hungry attractive 37yo guy seeks laid back hung 24 to 44yo with slim to medium build to suck off regularly. I'm HIV+ healthy. Serious only please. ☎ 71315

FETISHES

"Straight Slave Begs!!"
For sirs to train this slave, to suck cock and to discipline, degrade this slave. Please call with your orders. ☎ 71218

Ass Master's Thesis!
Bearded WM, 42, seeks muscle butt studs as research subjects for thesis entitled, "The effects of athletics on the male anus." Examination table involved. ☎ 71219

Furry Lips And Open Throat?
Hung Black Oakland daddy, 47, enjoys watching and feeling a thick moustache bouncing on my power~tool. Please no beards/goatees, voicemails or beginners. Late afternoons, late evenings. ☎ 71220

Nude Diled Wrestling, Playful
To erotic. All skill levels for one-on-one or tag team matches. Hairy chested, 38y.o. GWM seeks similar types. ☎ 71221

"Daytime Asshole~Eater!"
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71222

Healthy Kinky 58 Y.O.
Bottom manufactures plenty of warm brown lube so you'll never stop at a drugstore. ☎ 71244

"I Clean Dirty Cocks".....
And strap-ons after and before you go in. Humiliation and piss needed by this healthy 58 yo. bottom guy. Phone--. ☎ 71245

Seeks Nip Pig Wk-Out Buddy!
I'm a 46yr. old aggressive bottom "Nip-Pig" bear, with huge erect nipples! I'm stocky/ 200# brn, brn, salt & pepper goatee, tat's, piercings, smoker! ISO super masc., muscular dominate "Bear Daddy" nip-pig for serious nipple wk outs & growth in mind! Smokers A+. Please call! ☎ 71246

Derby Dudes/ Cholos, Skimasks
Skinhead, 28, bootstomper seeks cholos, thugs, punks, old school guys who wear derby jackets, Ben Davis, steel toe boots. I dig servicing. ☎ 71247

Nipple Workout Partner Let's
Work on each others nipple until we explode. All levels of experience. GWM, 38yo, hairy chest seeks similar. ☎ 71264

"Queer Skinhead Into Aggro"
Oi, mate! Queer skinhead, 5'8", 142, muscled, tattooed, goateed, hairy, ISO mates into Oi, boots, skinsex, Rough Aggro- kicking, stomping, wrestling, boxing, fistfighting, stom, leather. ☎ 71265

•Shaved Upper Bodies•
Tall shaved WHM wishes to video tape large persons of any race or gender who have smooth chests and shaved pits. ☎ 71293

~Seeking Discipline!~
WM, generous, seeks younger defined strict yet understanding WM for progressive bi-monthly corporal punishment sessions including whipping, humiliation & foot worship. ☎ 71295

Beat This Man....
This queer mature pervert requires a beating periodically. Good for younger fit sadist. Please inquire! ☎ 71296

"Daytime Asshole-Eater!"
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71297

•{Always Thirsty}•
50yo HIV- piss dad seeks healthy HIV- kickback top with full bladder and balls that need regular draining pissy underwear A+, willing to train. ☎ 71298

Big Men!!
WLM 45, 6', 160lbs. I'm attracted to very heavyset men who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure. Gainers, non-exercisers, kissers, cuddlers A+. Not into gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71299

GBM 55 HIV+ Bottom 5'10"200lbs
Sks GWM tops into vaseline-oil sleaze. Enjoy my oil massage, video, foot-body worship, sucked my butt. Open minded to d-long sessions, undressed by me. ☎ 71316

"Seeking Guy With Piss Load!"
You good hose, any race, HIV-neg. I'm 6', 155, HIV-neg, early 50's, East Bay, thirsty, have W/S tapes and camcorder. ☎ 71294

'Asshole Rimmer Insatiable'
Wanted by WM, 49, 6', top, exc. shape. Be 25-50 old, love to rim for hours, in-shape, no fats. Prefer Black, Asian, HIV+ only, regular basis. ☎ 71317

Seeks Nipple Pig Wkout Buddy!!
I'm 46yr. old aggressive bottom "nip-pig" bear with nice erect nipples! I'm stocky/ 200# brn/brn, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercings, smoke! ISO super masc, muscular dominate "bear daddy" nip-pig for serious nipple wk-outs & growth in mind!! Smokers A+ please call! ☎ 71318

"Spiritually Focused Domination"
Consciousness adventures thru bondage, intense sensual stimulation, discipline and/ or abasement, guided by tantric yogi Oakland WM 54. Ideally you're fit, smart, complex, capable of commitment. ☎ 71319

COUPLES

All Nighter W/2 Waiting For U
Attractive GWM 5'11",185#, 40, top & 5'10", 155#, 31, bottom/vers. I.S.O. versatile, attractive, gay, men 21-35 desiring 9",7", tight ass, for Explosive Hot Sex, no fems. HIV- preference. ☎ 71266

"Looking For Three, Four Way Action"
If you're a couple looking for another HOT, masculine male who knows how to use his cock, give me a call. I'm 6', 185lbs. GBM, 9". You guys won't be disappointed. Looking to have a good time. Masculine and muscular men only. ☎ 71300

OTHERS

Englishman Seeks Woman!
HIV-, University graduate, for marriage of convenience for right woman. ☎ 71267

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Rescued from eternal silence

'Masterpieces of Japanese Silent Cinema' out on DVD-ROM

by Gary Morris

Western interest in Japanese film falls mainly into three realms: the Godzilla movies and their endless cheesy clones; the works of art-house staples like Kurosawa, Mizoguchi, Ozu, Imamura, *et al.*, which have been seen and written about in the West since the 1950s; and the exploitation/actioner genres beloved by fanboys and deployed to an increasingly wide (though still quite small) audience. The latter include everything from bread-and-butter samurai/yakuza cinema to "pink" (porn) films to the lurid sex 'n' horror movies of the '60s and '70s, with titles like *The School of the Holy Beasts*. Such films have long had their advocates in the underground press (zines like *Asian Trash Cinema* come to mind) and are starting to become better known through DVD releases.

Less accessible but equally interesting is the Japanese silent film. Through an unfortunate collusion of circumstances, most of Japan's silent films — which endured into the 1930s, after the West had switched exclusively to sound — were destroyed. (This is also the case throughout the world, including in America.) Still, as the new DVD-ROM *Masterpieces of Japanese Silent Cinema* shows, this is as rich a topic for both study and entertainment as any of its rivals in the West.

Issued in a double-clamshell case with a 12-page booklet, this DVD-ROM (which is not compatible with CD-ROM players, please note) manages to pack a complete history of its subject onto its single-sided disk. The format is simple and easily navigable. There are three main icons that permit entry into the various areas: Theater, Research Center, and Library. Drilling down into these areas reveals a wealth of information that brings this obscure subject to life. Clicking on the Research Center icon, for example, brings up articles on the following topics, among others: *The Arrival of Cinema in Japan; History of Silent Film in Japan; On the Benshi; Benshi Fashion; Why So Few Preserved Films.* Each of these links calls up a detailed explanation of the subject, which can be printed. The *Why So Few Preserved Films* link, for example, tells a fascinating story about the bombing of the Daiei company's film storage vaults during World War II. That, along with Tokyo's celluloid-unfriendly climate (high humidity and high temperatures in the summer) and the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake, conspired to destroy much of Japan's early film history, which began in the 1890s.



Same-sex audiences

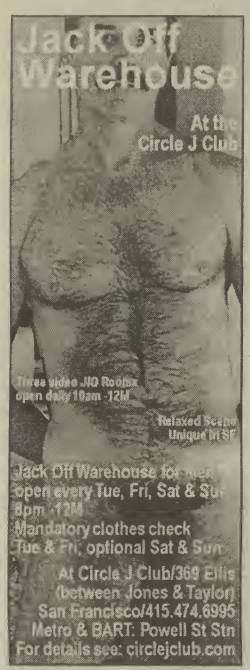
The Research Center contains basic film data on an astounding 12,000 films. This data includes title, year of production, production company, director, staff, and cast. Embedded links take the user quickly to other areas of interest, and can inspire days of research into a particular person or studio. Multiple search options allow the user to search film titles, people's names, production years, production companies, and the disk's film library. Among the revelations here: a 1917 law forced the segregation of audiences into three groups that could not commingle: men, women, and children with their parents. Unmarried young men and women were not permitted to attend a movie together. Another intriguing tidbit concerns the *gakudan*, the musical group that accompanied silent films. This ensemble showed the West's early influence on Japanese culture, being composed equally of instruments from both Japan (taiko drums, for example) and the West (trumpets and piano). Also contained in the Research Center are period stills, leaflets and posters, and plot descriptions for 1,000 of the films.

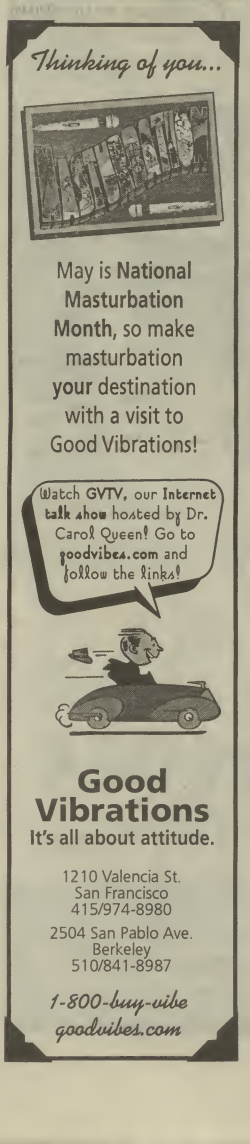
The Library icon gives users access to both audio and video interviews (including film critics); biographies of the 560 people profiled on the disk; a list of references for further study; and a section on the *benshi*, those narrators who recycled the tradition of Kabuki narration into cinema. No Japanese silent film was without a *benshi*, and this convention continues to be observed today for the rare screenings that occur.

For many users, the Theater section will be of greatest interest. This is the location for the video clips from 45 Japanese silent films. Charmingly presented in a mock theater (complete with rising curtain), these clips are accompanied by music and *benshi* narration, with English subtitles. Some of this material is tantalizing indeed. Mizoguchi fans can see just how far back his visual brilliance stretches in the clip from *The Downfall of Osen*. The scene shows a woman obviously in crisis — perhaps the archetypal Mizoguchi image — with the director's elegant moving camera tracking her as she runs, and then in front of her, seeming to lead her along to what looks like further terrors. Cinematographically speaking, this is one of the strongest clips sampled, but there are others (Orochi and Mizoguchi's *The Water Magician*, for example) that show the high quality of work being done in Japan from the beginning. Video resolution is reasonably good, perhaps a tribute to the restoration process done on many of the films by Matsuda Film Productions, a collaborator on this disc. (Matsuda Shunsui, a *benshi* narrator himself and a pioneer of film preservation, founded this company.) Other titles of interest include *Jirokichi the Rat, I Graduated, But...*, and a 1913 version of *Chushingura*.

On the down side, this item was issued only in the Windows format, so Mac owners are immediately cut out. The other caveat will be too serious for many potential purchasers to overcome. The price is a prohibitive $200. While institutional pricing is crucial in helping such entities as Urban Connections, the disc's publisher, stay afloat, it would also make sense to have a two-tier pricing scheme: a high price for schools and libraries, and a more reasonable one for individuals. As it stands, only the most serious fans will want to purchase *Masterpieces of Japanese Silent Cinema* outright; others are advised to make sure their local library stocks it, along with a good DVD-ROM player. ▼

***Masterpieces of Japanese Silent Cinema* is available from Urban Connections: www.infoasia.co.jp/urban/. Also check out the website of Matsuda Film Productions: www.infoasia.co.jp/subdir/matsudae, which rents out benshi narrators!**









Nothing rough

by Yvonne Zipter

Rough Music, by Patrick Gale; Ballantine Books, $25.

It's been awhile now since queer books have felt compelled to be primarily about being queer. Nevertheless, there is something refreshing about the way British author Patrick Gale treats his gay main character, Will Padgett, in *Rough Music*, the latest of Gale's nine novels. In Gale's works, the main dramas don't center on Will's homosexuality, but instead on his mother's worsening Alzheimer's and a long-ago family tragedy.

The earlier events are only foreshadowed in most of the tightly constructed book, which alternates between a present-day holiday at a beachhouse and another holiday, some 30 years earlier. Still, the tension builds throughout the book and creates the sense of a mystery unfolding. *Rough Music* is consequently gripping on a number of levels, from the pathos evoked by mother Frances' disease to the bits of the past, which are revealed in a tantalizingly slow fashion, giving this book its page-turner quality. Even Will's sordid affair — which would smack of Jerry Springer material in lesser hands — is handled gracefully so that the focus isn't on its sensational qualities, but rather on the havoc it ultimately unleashes on so many lives.

While the plot is undeniably compelling and the prose not without flair ("each kept starving the dialogue with monosyllables"), Gale's greatest skill might be in creating characters that are admittedly flawed but, as a consequence, utterly believable and sympathetic. We might not approve of every action these characters take, but in Gale's hands, it's easy to understand what drove them to those actions. The characters, by and large, are nuanced and complex: John, the father, is tender and perplexed under his very British stiff-upper-lip facade; Frances has always hungered for more while seldom complaining; Harriet, Will's friend, is outrageous and outspoken but caring; and Will himself founders between his desire to be "a good boy" and his yearning for true love. Exceptions might be Will's brother-in-law, Sandy, whose motivations are never made entirely clear, and his sister Poppy, who is a bit too much of a blank slate through much of the action. But even with them, it is possible to see their opacity as a product of their confusion, a result of their being damaged in some way.

The book is not perfect: in one chapter about two-thirds of the way through the novel, the jump-cuts in the action between a fertility clinic and the events surrounding the escape of a prisoner at which John is the warden are disorienting at best. And the quintessentially British words sprinkled throughout — fug, pips (as in short, high-pitched tones), pillion, and so on — while charming and clearly authentic, can occasionally intrude on the flow of the story, especially since some of them aren't even in my copy of Webster's Tenth dictionary and required further hunting to try to uncover their meaning.

Throughout *Rough Music*, there is a hushed or muted quality, which lends an air of beauty and sorrow, simultaneously, as the characters imperfectly and uncertainly feel their way through life. Patrick Gale has created a story in which the craft that has gone into it is most clearly seen in the way that it never intrudes on the story — a story full of sensitivity and grace. ▼

Different Ford

by Robert Julian

Water from a Bucket - A Diary 1948-1957 by Charles Henri Ford; Turtle Point Press, $16.95

Poet, artist, editor, publisher, and pederast, Charles Henri Ford is certainly deserving of the epithet "Jack of all trades." His mastery in these areas is something best determined by others. This reviewer can only comment on his recently published diary, which is illuminating and frustrating, crass and poetic, and probably most valuable for its glimpse into the pre-Stonewall gay milieu of New York artists and writers.

Ford is the brother of Broadway actress Ruth Ford, married to the actor Zachary Scott during the years of the diary. Openly gay, Charles Henri Ford spent over 20 years as the lover of successful surrealist painter Paul Tchelitchew, whose death is the concluding episode of Ford's diary. During the years Ford writes about, he is essentially a "kept man."

He folded his literary magazine, *View*, in 1947, and he and Tchelitchew lived off the latter's income as a painter. Ford, who was considerably younger than his artist lover, had a taste for young boys, which he indulged with complete abandon during their years together. And Ford's 1954 take on a life of sexual denial reflects the 21st century more than the Eisenhower years.

"I went ahead and became a homosexual — no matter what. Not everybody does that who should (or would LIKE to). All the fucked up lives - just because they weren't fucked. A virtue of necessity? More usually a vice is made of it."

Many passages in the diary are in French, and Ford spends portions of these years in Italy, seducing shepherds in their fields — an activity that irritates his lover, but serves as an endless source of erotic satisfaction for Ford. Their circle of friends includes many of the best-known writers of the time, although many of the names may be obscure to contemporary readers. The most intimate glimpses Ford provides are in his descriptions of the visits of Edith Sitwell and her husband. But there are other references to meetings with Cecil Beaton, Gertrude Stein, George Balanchine, and others. Unfortunately, Ford's prose is sketchy and incomplete, providing only fleeting insights and quick takes on the personalities surrounding him.

Yet the occasional jewel slips through which forces the reader to sit up and take notice of the author's perspicacity. *Water from a Bucket* falls considerably short of Proust, or even Anais Nin, but Ford's prose voice is compelling. Now in his nineties and living in New York, Ford's diary gives us a fascinating glimpse into a world quite different from our own. ▼

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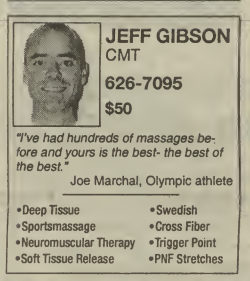
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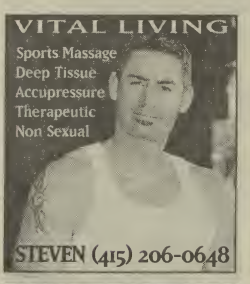
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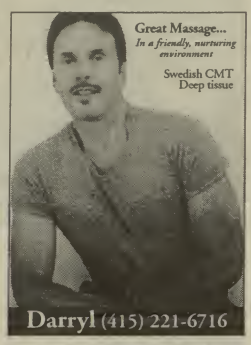
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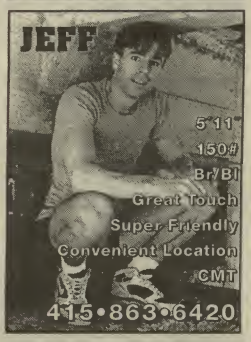
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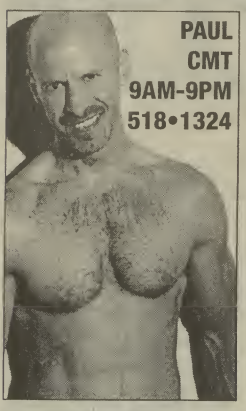


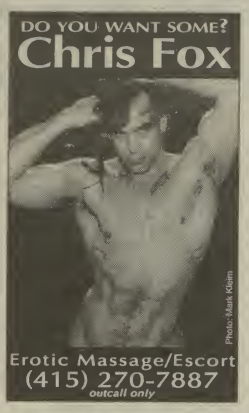


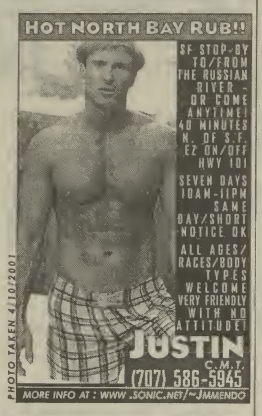
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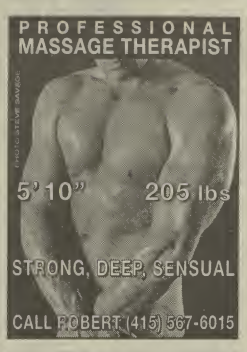
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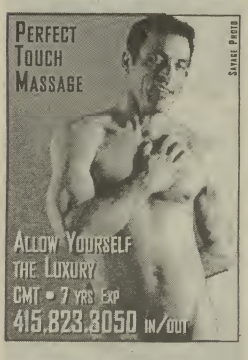




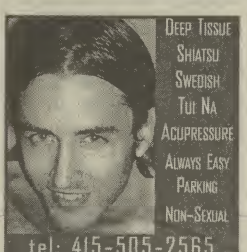




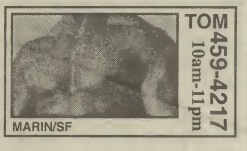
















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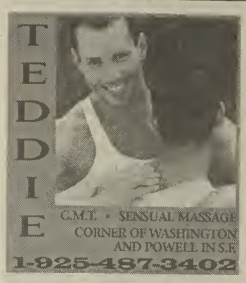
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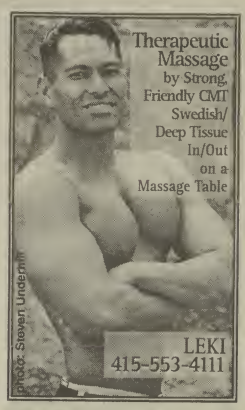
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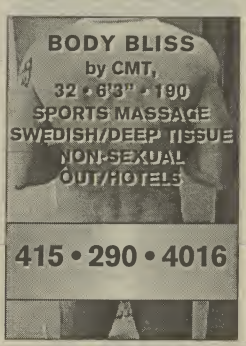
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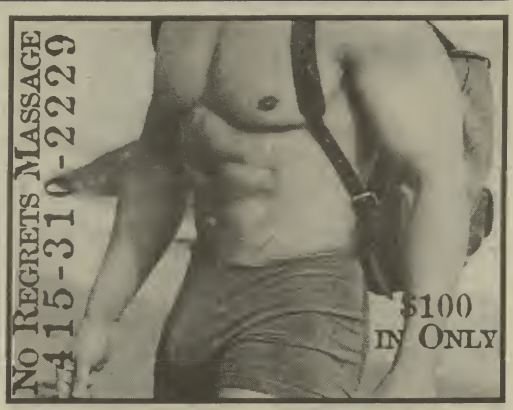
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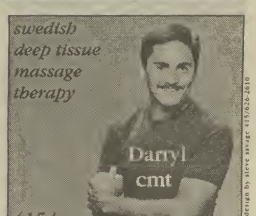
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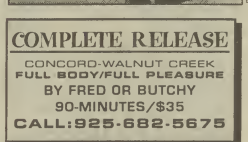
ROMAN HOLIDAY
Warm, furry, handsome Italian offers Swedish/erotic massage. Franco 415-533-6877 In/Out E22











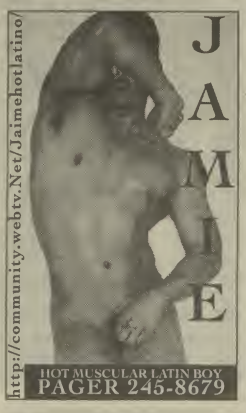
Eastbay comfort warmth & more sensual massage by nude masseur Bob $30/hr 510 843 4408 E21

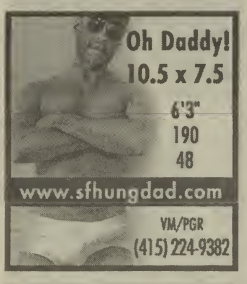
EROTIC MASSAGE DANNY
Enjoy a full body massage by a sexy Latino guy. In/Out 305-6856 E22

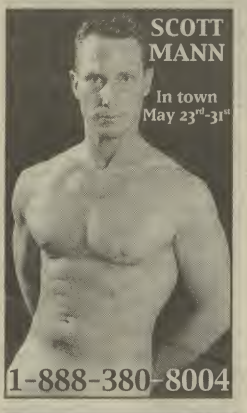
DOWNTOWN SF
Attractive certified massage therapist in Union Square. 24 blonde (415) 929-9224 24hours. E31

MODEL/ESCORTS











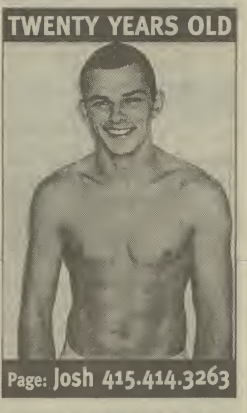


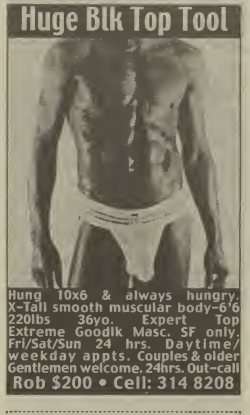














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"Every white man's fantasy, every white man's dream!"
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
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$80/$100 * JIM 267-1817
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Small ff hands for pleasure & relief. 5'8", 135#, 30w lean Latin. $100 out SF only. Morlex 679 3320
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Masculine, handsome & well-built big balls. Great butt/legs versatile In/out 24hrs 948-8131
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Super cleancut, Super Hung
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21YO BLONDE
6ft 165 Smooth
Gym built and beautifully hung
Matt pgr: 560-7456
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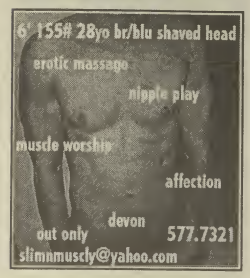
Spend time slurpin' on well-hung mid-west meat. masc. go-t. xl-nuts
SKIN 4 HEAD!
Clint*540-5311* in-out 24hr. Hot!
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BACK SIDE
Very, sexy, handsome, well-built bottom. Great, butt/legs beautiful tool. 364-1890 for all my stats.
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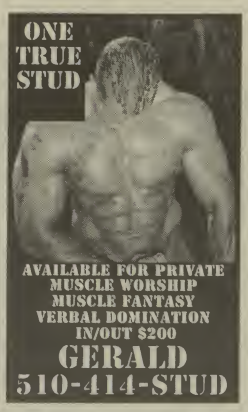
Big Thick Norwegian Meat 540 6079
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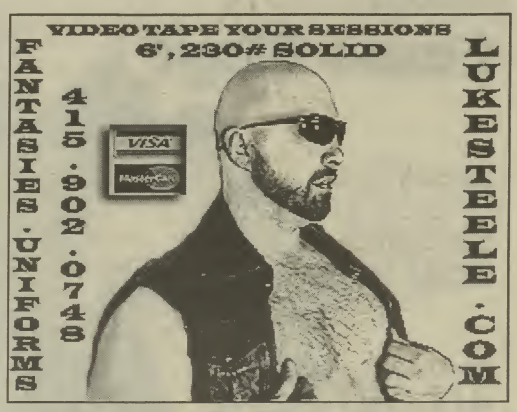
MODEL/ESCORTS











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ftbl player type and nice guy!
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respectful & fun
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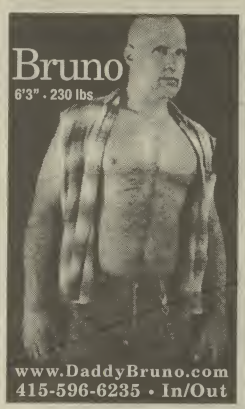
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Young cute boys. Call Edward (415)
572-1690. 10am-8pm. Ez parking
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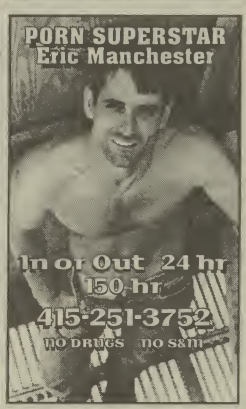
HOT CHOCOLATE DUO!
Masculine, discreet, handsome
9"hung, athletic, muscular, 5'10" top
6'2", 200lb hairy versatile bottom
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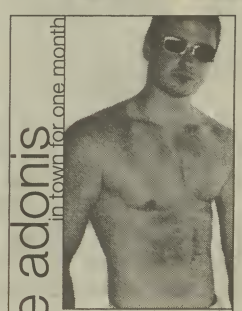
Yep, you read it right
STR8TR SKATER
is back! If you don't already
have it, my # is 415 289 6843 v/m
E22

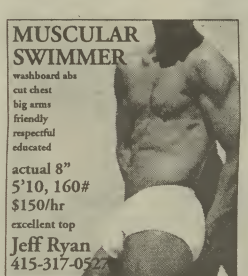
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HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM
Alek, 242-4230, 24hrs. in/out
E22

BIKER TOP, ITALIAN
6'3", 225lbs, muscular, inked,
thick stache & tool 13ee feet
Bruno 415-596-6235
E21

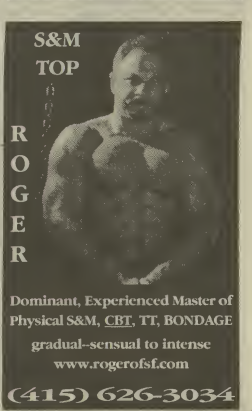
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Furry men of all sizes wanted for
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mosphere 510-215-1517
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SAN JOSE STUDENT
Justin - 24 6'2", 175 cute,
Naturally smooth runners build,
awesome endowment, In/Out 408-
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E23

Erotic massage by handsome
gentle daddy age 45 well hung
outcalls only $60 Dave 503-1629
E21

BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/Bay Area
Ted*(415) 459-3488
E22









PEOPLE

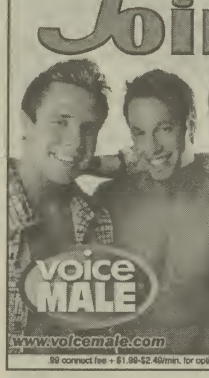
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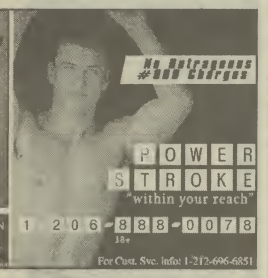
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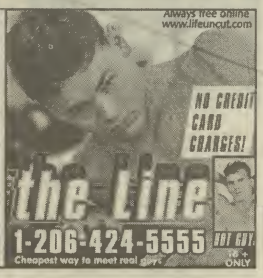
24 HOUR MEN!
24 hours a day HOT, HUNG MEN are looking to HOOK-UP on Club Voice-MALE! 18+ Record & Listen FREE! Call 415-247-5555 Use Access code 1737

Local Live Connections FREE!



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Pleasanton 925-426-5588
Palo Alto 650-223-0200
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free!
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TALK SEX PERSONALS

MEET SEXY SINGLES!
Connect with local singles TONIGHT on The Confidential Connection®
18+ Listen to & Record personal ads!
Call 415-247-2000 Use Access code: 4858

Tall, Dark & Huge!
Connect with HOT LOCAL MEN! TONIGHT on Club Voice-MALE! Browse/Match/Chat! 18+
Call 415-247-5555
Use Access Code 1348

HOT GAY FANTASIES
talk 1-1 or interactive menu for a mind-blowing experience!
1-900-435-0695
$2.99-$4.99/min 18+
1-888-206-2804
$2.49-$3.49/min V/MC/AMEX 18+

ALL MALE PARTY LINE
Connect live to hot local guys or listen to the Ads for FREE! Just call
1-888-272-7277
And enter FREE trial code 2166

Good Head in Sonoma County. Call Days 707-823-3895 E27

Bare-Assed Spanking Experienced, Safe: 504-7776 www.daddyhoward.com E01-2002

BI-CURIOUS?
Explore your desires..TONIGHT! On The Confidential Connection! 18+
CALL 415-247-2000
Use Access Code 3954 E18

YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO
advertise in the *Bay Area Reporter* Personals! They really work! E18

WM, well blt, 8", nds well blt men (20-37) w/firm butt to eat. 776-7472 E24

PENIS-ENLARGEMENT.NET
FDA Approved vacuum pumps/surgical, permanent & safe. Enhance erection.Latest enlargement info: 619-295-HUNG or 900-976-pump ($2.95 min) E21

Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys 415-752-0971 E39

Hot boy sux boys 18-26 753-1004 E25

Blowjobs, etc. 415-285-8390 E24

Daytime deep throat service from a 60 year old expert!! Call! Sam 415 771 2154 E21

SF neg top, 46, needs horny younger bottom * 551-1520 E27

SUBMIT...
... your ad to the *Bay Area Reporter* Personals by calling David at 415-861-5019!

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

DEADLINE
NOON on MONDAY. Payment *must* accompany ad. No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

Indicate Type Style Here ▼ — X-BOLD Stops Here ▼ — BOLD Stops Here ▼ — CAPS Stop Here ▼ — Regular Stops Here ▼

PAYMENT
☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
Minimum $10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT
Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

CONTACT INFORMATION
Name Telephone
Address
City State Zip
Number of Issues Classification Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
SF, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144
OR E-MAIL:
baradv@aol.com

PEOPLE

WANTED!
BAY AREA MEN
• Live Talk
• Meet Ads
• Voice Mail
24 Hours
$2.00
976-7500
Free
(415) 981-8123

Find a group or start your own TODAY on the CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTIONS
18+



ARE YOU A BARE CHEST CALENDAR MAN?
Have you been on ANY calendar since it all began in 1985. If so, you're invited to a BC Calendar Reunion Party at the Eagle on Saturday, JULY 28TH. For more info, email HatchetQ@aol.com
E29

Body Trim & Shave * Castro Area Location. Call 4 apptmt * 626-1168
E26

WANTED: Vintage gay/straight photo erotic. Edwardian, 40's to 60's Cash paid! Bob (415) 777-5911
E24

SUBMIT...
... your ad to the *Bay Area Reporter* Personals by calling David at 415-861-5019!

HUNGRY?
IF he growls during sex, it's hot. If your stomache growls it's not. Let us fill you up before he does. Harvey's SOMA Restaurant & Bar.
1582 Folsom Street, SF, CA.
Formerly *Hamburger Mary's*. Open M-F@ 11am, Sat & Sun at 9am.
Take-Out Available 626-1985.
E18

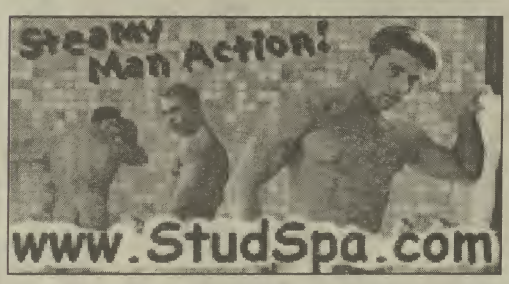
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E25

XXX WEB



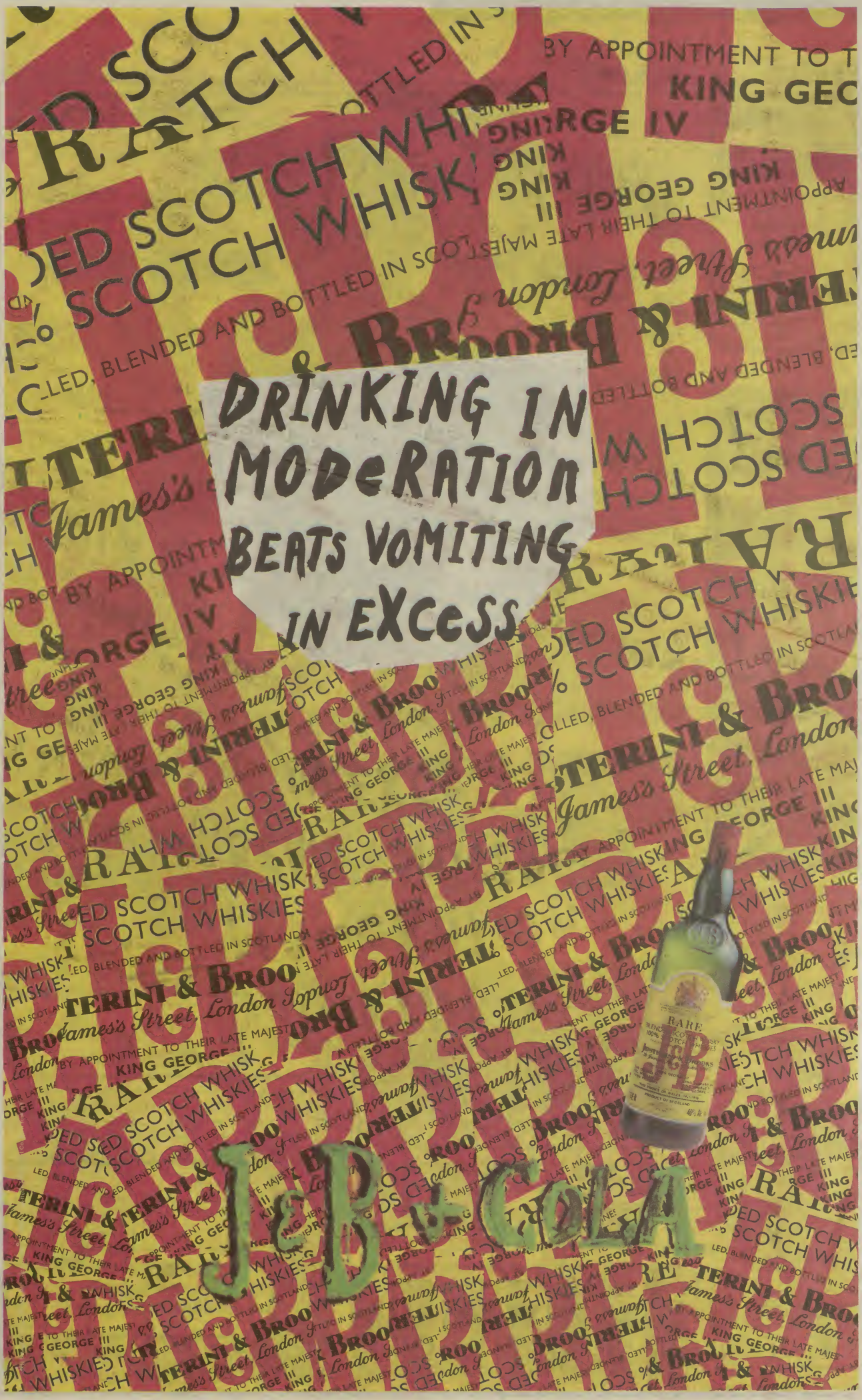








Reserve advertising space NOW for the 2001 Pride Issue of the
BAY AREA REPORTER
PRIDE
Reserve early...
Display Ads: Friday, June 8th @ 5:00pm
Line Ads: Monday, June 18th @ 12:00pm
Inserts: Friday, June 8th @ 5:00pm
Issue date: Thursday, June 21
Pride Parade & Celebration: Sunday, June 24th
Call for rates 415.861.5019
or email BARadv@aol.com


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